NC SIS Weekly Email Bulletin
Friday, November 22, 2013

The NC SIS Email Bulletin highlights issues and announcements that were communicated to users during the week. The bulletin also features late-breaking and recurring news about NC SIS and the PowerSchool project.

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1. Production Updates Scheduled for the Weekend

Several PowerSchool updates will take place this weekend. Below is a list of action items Pearson will be performing.

   a. Student Pages (Historical Grades-Added validation to prevent course name from being removed on current records)
   b. Staff Pages (Staff Information-Added requirement to populate Federal Ethnicity and Race fields before page can be saved)
   c. Staff Pages (Staff Information-Fixed Scheduling/Report Ethnicity to auto-update for “White” race value)
   d. Staff Pages (Staff Roles-Resolved issues with inconsistent date entry)
   e. Student Awards: Corrected an issue where the student awards page did not delete a record when confirm delete is clicked
   f. District Setup (GPA Calculations – NC Weighted and NC Unweighted GPA calculation methods no longer honor submitted changes to preserve these state defined calculations)
   g. School Administration (Roles Administration-Prevent users from editing Co-Teaching Roles in advance of being controlled by Enterprise Controller)
   h. Restart servers on Sunday from 4:00 a.m. - 8:00 a.m. to help with the infrastructure issues which create issue with the instances. This is a proactive step to assist with performance issues.

2. eTranscript Success

As most of you know, eTranscripts went live Wednesday, November 13 at 6 p.m., and the annual
statewide North Carolina College Application Week was held November 18 – 22. CFNC has reported that the eTranscript System has successfully delivered 32,302 PowerSchool electronic transcripts and 12,248 NC WISE electronic transcripts from 6 p.m., November 13 through 3 p.m., November 22.

We applaud and thank all who were involved in making this process a success.

3. NC Weighted and Unweighted GPAs

Pearson is deploying into production this weekend the correct formulas for the NC Weighted and NC Unweighted GPAs for those LEAs who either deleted them or altered them. Once the push is completed, the NC GPA fields will be locked down.

It is critical to use these formulas when producing the official transcript and report card. However, LEAs will still be able to use their own GPA calculations for purposes other than transcripts and report cards.

Those with questions or concerns pertaining to this process may contact the Home Base Support Center at homebase.incidents@its.nc.gov.

4. IIS (Schoolnet) Training Environment

LEAs and Charter Schools:

As some of you are aware, NCDPI has experienced some performance concerns with the Instructional Improvement System (IIS or Schoolnet) training environment over the last few weeks. Pearson, the IIS vendor, will be bringing the IIS training site (homebasetraining.schoolnet.com) down at 6:00 PM on Friday evening, November 22, 2013, and we are asking that LEAs suspend IIS training activities involving the training site until December 9, 2013. NCDPI will work with Pearson during the outage to move the training environment to a new data center with an upgraded hardware/software operating environment. NCDPI and Pearson will sufficiently test the training environment to ensure that it is operating as designed with sufficient response time and plan to bring the training environment back online on December 9, 2013. We will send out a notice to all LEAs once we have the IIS training environment back online.

Thank you for your patience as we make improvements to your Instructional Improvement System test environment.

5. Known PMR Issues After State Report Release

After the State Reporting Release 13.11.0.3.0 was implemented this past weekend, QA performed regression testing to determine what issues remain with PMR. Here are the findings.

1. PMR 18 – PMR is not reporting the student’s original entry code for this school year when enrollment code is R5 or R6.
   This will be corrected in the Dec. maintenance release. Pearson will add a view so LEAs can see the R5 and R6 students.
2. Withdrawals are showing on all PMRs regardless of the month that the student withdraws. However, the ADM/ADA appears to be correct. This causes enrollment numbers to show an artificial increase in the withdrawals being reported here. **This will be corrected in the Dec. maintenance release.**

3. PMR 5, 6, 7, 10, and 25 are reflecting track school information incorrectly. **This will be corrected in the Dec. maintenance release.**

4. PMR 23 is incorrectly reporting 10 digit student numbers as invalid. **This will be corrected in the Dec. maintenance release.**

5. R1 is not reporting the student’s original grade level and code. **This will be corrected in the Dec. maintenance release.**

6. Some totals are not correct on the PMR Summary report. **This will be corrected in the Dec. maintenance release.**

7. Some sites are still unable to run a PMR because of incorrect data. **This will be corrected in the Dec. maintenance release. This issue is related to one or more students with two or more enrollment records with the exact same entry and exit dates.**

8. DPI is working with Pearson to develop scripts to help correct:
   a. LEAs inability to correct a student’s re-enrollment history after the student is transferred to another school due to school ID being lost upon transfer.
   b. Bad Data generated by PS that causes RPG errors to show on the PMR exceptions. The bug has been corrected; however, Pearson needs to run a script to correct the bad data.

9. Pearson is researching a bug with the Core product that affects transferring students. Data gets dropped (e.g., school code, admission status).

**Please be reminded that the PMR Summary will be inaccurate until all FATALs are corrected.**

Due to the continued issues with the PMR, if any LEA has already run and approved their PMR for Month 1 and believe their information to be incorrect, they may un-approve, re-run the PMR, and re-approve their Month 1 PMR once the information is correct. LEAs may use the attachment, PMR Validation Errors, as a reference for all Exception Codes and their severity.

If you have questions or concerns pertaining to your PMR, please contact the Home Base Support Center at homebase.incidents@its.nc.gov. (Attachment: PMR Validation Errors)

6. Updated Documents on the Web

AIG Webinar Recording
http://www.nc-sis.org/recordings.html
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