NC SIS Weekly Email Bulletin

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

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1. PowerSchool Weekend Updates and Fixes

The following items will be promoted into PowerSchool this weekend. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact the Home Base Support Center at homebase.incidents@its.nc.gov.

A. State Reporting
   1. CRDC Report updated with data from EDDIE synchronization process to provide consistent Grade Level Values for each school in the district.
   2. RP Report Only
      a) Removing Retention – Reading line on the RP Summary. Retention Reading Students will now be counted as promoted. Please see the article, ‘SAR and RP Updates for October 31, 2014’ for more details.

B. Script to Run Weekly
   1. Script to correct the issue where added value (weighted value) associated with courses is null instead of zero. This is the work around until the store grade process is corrected to prevent the creation of records with nulls.

C. PMR Script
1. Running script to unapproved months 3 – 9. Please see the article ‘Reminder: Issue with PMR Approval Button’.

2. SAR and RP Updates for October 31, 2014

Retention/Promotion (RP) Reporting Update

1. The RP is being extended from November 4 to November 18. This extension is due to the following:
   
   A. More time needed to address retrieving data for schools that have closed but were in operation in 2013/14.
   
   B. Updates in PowerSchool to correct reporting of the Read-to-Achieve data.

2. PowerSchool is being updated to remove the Retention – Reading line on the RP Summary report. The students indicated on this line, will now be moved to the promotion totals. After this update is in PowerSchool, all elementary schools will need to rerun the RP report to show updated data if they have data in the Retention – Reading line.

3. PowerSchool staff are working on a process to collect RP data from closed schools. The process, once approved, will be reported to the appropriate LEAs that have schools that closed after the 2013/14 schools year.

SAR Reporting Update

1. The SAR will be extended from November 14 to November 21. This extension is due to the following:
   
   A. Resolving course requests; and
   
   B. Anticipated workload on system during College week.

We appreciate your patience as we work to resolve these issues. We hope these extended deadlines will assist you in completing your reporting requirements. If you have questions pertaining to these reporting updates, you may contact the Home Base Support Center at homebase.incidents@its.nc.gov.

3. Reminder: Issue with PMR Approval Button

As mentioned previously, we have identified a problem with the PMR Approval Button on the district level. When the button is clicked, it approves all PMRs not yet approved at the school level. Pearson has been notified of this issue and the developer is continuing to work on a resolution.

In the meantime, PLEASE DO NOT click the Approval Button at the LEA level. Pearson has disapproved PMRs 3 through 9 for all schools. We anticipate a fix in the November maintenance weekend. Pearson will not unapprove PMR 2 unless there is a request via the Home Base Support Center.
4. Credit by Demonstrated Mastery – Update (Attachment: CDM_Instructions)

Each LEA will need to add the new “CDM” item which represents Credit by Demonstrated Mastery when needed. It will print on the transcript but will not count in the student’s GPA. Students who demonstrate mastery through the multi-phase CDM process shall receive credit for the course toward graduation requirements.

In our previous email, the link that was given to access the NC Implementation Guide for Credit by Demonstrated Mastery directed you to the Home page of the wiki site. For direct access to the guide please use this link: http://cdm.ncdpi.wikispaces.net/CDM+Implementation+Guide. Note that this current guide is in revision and will be released by the end of November with clarifications.

There was also a slight change to the attachment which gives instructions on how to add CDM to all grade scales at the LEA level. Please replace your old instructions with these.

5. Ninth Grade Entry Date

NCDPI will NOT set the student’s ninth grade entry date in PowerSchool. LEAs/schools will be responsible for setting this value for all rising and new ninth graders. The ninth grade entry date can be mass updated using the Student Field Value.

Please be advised that the Athletic Eligibility function and Diploma Assessment will use the ninth grade entry date as part of their logic in PowerSchool.

Use the following steps to view a student’s ninth grade entry date in PowerSchool:
• Select a student;
• Select the Custom Screens option;
• Select the Student Academics link.

If you have questions or concerns pertaining to the student’s ninth grade entry date, please contact the Home Base Support Center at homebase.incidents@its.nc.gov

6. 3rd Grade Read-to-Achieve Status Label

The student 3rd Grade Read-to-Achieve status label has been preserved (copied) in the PowerSchool database at a separate location for the purpose of maintaining data for future analysis. Stay tuned for a follow-up communication describing how the schools/districts can access this preserved information. Please continue to follow the instructions provided by Academic Services for applying/removing the current label. To view the label in PowerSchool, please adhere to the following steps:
• Select a student;
• Select the transfer info option;
• Select the student’s 2013/2014 third grade promotion record and the label will be viewed on this page as a promotion status.
If you have questions or concerns pertaining to the 3rd Grade Read-to-Achieve status label, please contact the Home Base Support Center at homebase.incidents@its.nc.gov.

7. Special Programs View – Restricted Access

It was brought to the attention of the NCDPI that there was a potential issue when accessing the Special Programs View at the school level in PowerSchool. The Special Programs View at the school level allowed users to access and update records of students who had transferred out of their school. This access included student information other than Special Programs. To reduce the risk to student information, the NCDPI has restricted access to the Special Programs View screen to the PowerSchool Coordinator groups only.

At this time, if your school requires a list of students in various Special Programs, the PowerSchool Coordinator has the ability to create a list for the school. As a reminder, a school may also query for a specific Special Program from the Start screen by using ‘*Special_Program=xxx’.

For questions or concerns, please contact the Home Base Support Center at homebase.incidents@its.nc.gov.

8. New and Updated Information on the Web

a) Entering AIG Data Recording – 10/28/2014
   http://www.nc-sis.org/recordings.html

b) AIG Process – 10/28/2014

9. Upcoming Training Webinars and Workshops

a) Discipline Incidents in PowerSchool Webinar
This webinar will demonstrate how to enter disciplinary incidents into the PowerSchool application.

   Date, Time and Registration Link
   - Monday, November 17, 2014 @ 1 p.m.
     - https://www1.gotomeeting.com/register/558287457

b) Mid-year Graduates in PowerSchool Webinar
This webinar will discuss the process for handling records of students graduating mid-year.

   Dates, Times and Registration Links
   - Thu, December 4, 2014 @ 1 p.m.
     - https://www1.gotomeeting.com/register/204543489
• Tue, December 16, 2014 @ 9 a.m.  
  o  https://www1.gotomeeting.com/register/366059760  
• Tue, January 13, 2015 @ 9 a.m.  
  o  https://www1.gotomeeting.com/register/444470360

c) Office of Civil Rights Data Collection (OCR/CRDC)  
This hour and half webinar is intended for OCR Coordinators, NC SIS Coordinators and any staff who are involved in the Office of Civil Rights Data Collection (CRDC).  

Dates and Times  
• November 4, 2014 @ 1 p.m.  
• November 18, 2014 @ 1 p.m.  
  Registration link: https://www1.gotomeeting.com/register/719879681

d) PowerSchool New Coordinator Training Workshop  
This workshop is geared to new PowerSchool coordinators who have not attended the 5 day IPT certification training or the 8 day District certification training.  

Dates and Times  
• December 11 – 12, 2014  
• January 12 – 13, 2015  
  Registration Link: http://www.timetosignup.com/powerschooltraining/folder/2160/

e) PowerSchool New User Workshop (School Level Staff)  
This is a 4 day workshop to train new users on the day-to-day processes of using PowerSchool.  

Date, Time and Registration Link  
• January 6 – 9, 2015 (9 a.m. – 4 p.m.)  
  o  https://www.timetosignup.com/powerschooltraining/form/5504

f) PowerSchool – School Counselors – Train the Trainer Workshop  
This workshop will be a hands-on training covering the basic functionality of PowerSchool pertinent to school counselors.  

Dates and Times  
• November 14, 2014 (9 a.m. – 4 p.m.)  
• November 20, 2014 (9 a.m. – 4 p.m.)  
• December 1, 2014 (9 a.m. – 4 p.m.)  
• December 8, 2014 (9 a.m. – 4 p.m.)  
• December 10, 2014 (9 a.m. – 4 p.m.)  
  Registration link - http://www.timetosignup.com/powerschooltraining/folder/1907/
g) PowerTeacher Grade Book Workshop
This workshop will cover basic PowerSchool and PowerTeacher functionality such as taking attendance, creating assignments, entering assignment grades, working with categories/groups, printing reports, final grade setup/weights, etc.

Classes will be held at NCDPI in Raleigh.

Dates and Times

- Monday, November 3 (10 a.m. – 4 p.m.)


For more information about NC SIS, please visit our website at [http://www.nc-sis.org](http://www.nc-sis.org).

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