The NC WISE Email Bulletin highlights issues and announcements that were communicated to users during the past week. The bulletin also features late-breaking and recurring news about NC WISE. In this issue:

1. Home Room Course Code and Attendance in PowerSchool (Attendance)

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1. Home Room Course Code and Attendance in PowerSchool

There have been a lot of questions raised concerning the need for a course code that would be used for attendance purposes in PowerSchool. After discussions with Pearson, we would like to share the following information with you.

Terminology and the attendance functionality in PowerSchool are different than what schools are accustomed to in eSIS. For example, homeroom means something different in PowerSchool than it does in eSIS. Also, there is not a one-to-one correlation between period attendance in eSIS and meeting attendance in PowerSchool.

Here are some items to consider...

1. In order for teachers to take attendance, the “Meeting” checkbox in Attendance Preferences must be checked. If this box is not checked, the icon for Attendance in PowerTeacher is not available. (See attached screen shots)
2. For schools electing to take attendance once a day (Daily), one period must be designated as the attendance reporting period. The designated period for attendance is identified in the Bell Schedule portion of School Setup. (See attached screen shots)
3. Because any period can be the “attendance” period, there is no need for a separate course that is used purely for attendance (such as a homeroom course). Schools may, of course, elect to create and schedule such a course if they have other needs for it. If a school does plan to use a course like this, a non-reporting course number should be used, such as 9985.
4. Because any course can be used for attendance purposes, a separate homeroom course is not needed unless the school has another reason for using one. Therefore, NCDPI will not be creating a new homeroom course code; schools may continue using their own course or create a new one as long as it is a non-reporting course number.

If you have any questions, please contact the NCDPI Service Center at homebase.incidents@its.nc.gov.

2. SAR Update
The SAR data will be processed Friday, February 1. Due to the volume of data to process, the edits will not be available on Xnet until Monday, February 4.

Please check the Latest Transaction report to see which version of the SAR process in Xnet your data is located. If your schools have submitted data more than once, you will want to review the latest version of the data.

After reviewing your data, please update any issues found and resubmit corrected data to NCDPI as quickly as possible. We strongly recommend weekly submissions until the data is cleared.

All schools with fatal errors will be disapproved by NCDPI. Any other school that needs resubmissions will have to request disapprovals.

**Any school that has not submitted SAR data must submit by 11 AM Friday morning, February 1 or contact Sandra Johnson.**

If you have data issues or need passwords reset for Xnet, please contact the NCDPI Service Desk by submitting a Remedy ticket to ncwise.incidents@its.nc.gov.

If you have policy issues or need disapproval of data for re-submissions, please contact Sandra Johnson at sandra.johnson@dpi.nc.gov

Thank you for your patience while we prepared for this data collection. A timeline for SAR approvals will be coming Monday, February 4 after NCDPI reviews the SAR processed data.

3. **Home Base PowerSchool Outside Service Providers**

Please read and forward to the appropriate staff the attachment from Philip Price, NCDPI Chief Financial Officer. If you have questions, please email homebase.incidents@its.nc.gov.

4. **2013 NC WISE Symposium Late Registration Fee Waived**

Attention LEAs and Charters,

Because of the vast number of respondents who have committed to attending the 2013 NC WISE Symposium, we have decided to waive the late registration fee of $250.00 set to take place for all payments postmarked on or after February 1, 2013. **REPEAT: There will NOT be a late registration fee to attend the 2013 NC WISE Symposium.** All registrants attending the Symposium will be required to pay the normal registration fee of $115.00.

Remember, registrations are not complete until payment and a copy of the registration form are received. So, please mail your checks to: NC Department of Public Instruction, Cash Collections, 6336 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, NC 27699-6336. Checks should be payable to NCDPI Cash Collections.

We have also received word that the Sheraton Greensboro Hotel at Four Seasons is booked solid and cannot accommodate any more Symposium guests for February 24 - 27. Alternate hotels in the surrounding area that may be used are:
1. Park Lane, Phone # - 336-294-4565
2. Double Tree, Phone #- 336-292-4004
3. Hampton Inn and Suites (New), Phone # - 336-553-1818
4. Drury Inn, Phone # 336-856-9696

We truly appreciate all the responses we have received and we hope your stay will be a pleasant one. Breakfast will still be provided to those who will be staying at a hotel other than the Sheraton. If you have questions please contact Phyllis Price, Phyllis.price@dpi.nc.gov or Yolanda Wilson, Yolanda.wilson@dpi.nc.gov.

5. Issue with MAC Computers

Several LEAs may have experienced problems connecting to the NC WISE application - specifically, MAC systems using Lion. Mac computers have stopped running programs written using the Java programming language in their browsers, as Apple blocked it because of security problems. To review the article pertaining to this issue, you may click on the following link: http://www.usatoday.com/story/tech/2013/01/31/apple-blocks-java-on-macs-due-to-vulnerabilities/1880783/.

Some users are reporting that the issue can be resolved by re-enabling Java 6. Please click on the following link for instructions on how to re-enable the Java SE 6 applet plug-in and Web Start Functionality: http://support.apple.com/kb/HT5559.

We hope this will resolve your issue. We will update if more information becomes available.

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