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:

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1. **PowerSchool Conversion Instance and Training**

Pearson and DPI discussed the benefits of LEAs/Charters training in their database instances during conversion routines and determined that allowing them to do so would do more harm than good. As a result, our unified, official recommendation is to NOT use this environment for training.

Questions about standing up training instances or reservations for an instance that DPI will provide should go to Wendy Hinson, Training Coordinator at wendy.hinson@dpi.nc.gov. For those who may be interested in reserving an instance for training purposes, please click on the following link and save the reservation document to your computer prior to completing. Once completed, return the document to Wendy Hinson via email at the above email address. A copy of the document is also attached to this message.


Please pass this information on and know that we will be happy to answer any questions you may have. All PowerSchool questions may be sent to homebase.incidents@its.nc.gov.

Thanks for all you do and your patience as we collaborate to respond to your inquiries.

Looking forward to seeing you at the Symposium!!!

2. **Course Codes**

Information on Course Code Conversion to Home Base PowerSchool
Please be advised: Only the newly formatted course codes will be used in Home Base PowerSchool after the conversion. DPI has provided Pearson with a crosswalk from the old eSIS course code to the new Home Base PowerSchool course code.

We will publish the crosswalk for your use. The first seven digits of the course code are state-defined and the remaining 3 digits are for LEA use. Some course code cleanup will be required. In order to assist you in this effort, reports will be made available via the Reporting Hub. An example of a currently available report is “Courses that have been scheduled by end dates.” You may also review the Course Code Functional Requirements, Proposed Course Code Structure 4 and the Proposed Course Code Structure Appendices located on the NC WISE website at http://www.ncwise.org/courses2.html.

Because of the breadth and depth of the task, we would like for LEAs/Charters to have the opportunity to ask questions via a webinar on March 7, 2013 from 1-3 p.m. A link to the webinar will be provided in our next weekly bulletin.

We look forward to seeing you at Symposium.

Safe travels!

3. Home Base Biweekly Update

Please read and forward to the appropriate staff the attachment “Home Base Biweekly Update for the latest updates on the Home Base project.

4. 2013 NC WISE Symposium: Opportunity for LEAs to Meet Pearson Project Managers

If you are attending the NC WISE Symposium, Pearson will be providing an opportunity for LEAs to meet with their Pearson Project Managers during the conference. You will need to visit the Pearson vendor table located on the 3rd floor of the hotel near the Symposium registration desk in order to sign up for an available time for the meeting.

Courtesy of Pearson, the Sheraton Club Fifth will be open from 8:30 p.m. – 1 a.m. Tuesday night.

We encourage you to take advantage of this opportunity and look forward to seeing you in Greensboro.

5. SAR Update 2/22/2013

Thanks to all schools that have been looking at your SAR edits and have re-submitted data. We still have 132 school systems that have fatal errors. We have 7 charter schools that have not reported SAR data as of 2/21/2013.

Please keep in mind that all fatal errors must be resolved to finalize the SAR data for 2012/13. Also, the HQ Rough Cut will possibly be posted next week. When that data is posted, it will not include any class data that has a fatal error on the SAR. To see a complete HQ report, you must resolve all fatal issues on the SAR.
If your Charter school has not reported the SAR, please contact Sandra Johnson, sandra.johnson@dpi.nc.gov, to discuss any issues that you are working on that has delayed your data submission.

If you need help with any edits, please put in a Remedy ticket or contact Sandra Johnson and we will get back to you as quickly as possible.

To date, we have processed SAR data for 4 weeks. SAR is to be completed by March 14. All schools with fatal errors have been disapproved back to the school level and all data that was submitted to DPI by 2 PM Thursday, February 21 has been processed. If you have not looked at your edits or are having problems seeing the data, please contact the NCDPI Service Desk at ncwise.incidents@its.nc.gov or Sandra Johnson.

We hope that these updates are helpful as you continue to work on your SAR.

Sandra Johnson will be at the 2013 NC WISE Symposium in the symposium registration area to assist with questions you may have about SAR on Tuesday, February 26.

6. Attendance Notification Requirements

All schools are reminded to notify parent, guardian or custodian of his/her child's excessive absences per documentation in the School Attendance and Student Accounting Manual (SASA) http://www.ncpublicschools.org/fbs/accounting/manuals/. Details can be found in Chapter 2, V. Rules of Procedure in Law Enforcement under the Duties of the Principal section.

Schools can produce the Attendance letters from the NC WISE eSIS system but if the system is not used for the notification, the rules still must be followed as indicated for three unlawful absences, six unlawful absences and 10 unexcused absences in a school year.

Please be aware that schools may be asked to produce evidence that they are following this policy of parent notification.

In part, the 'Duties of the Principal' states the following:

3. The principal or the principal’s designee must notify the parent, guardian, or custodian of his/her child’s excessive absences after the child has accumulated three unlawful absences in a school year. After not more than six unlawful absences, the principal or the principal’s designee must notify the parent, guardian, or custodian by mail that he or she may be in violation of the Compulsory Attendance Law and may be prosecuted if the absences cannot be justified under the established attendance policies of the State and local boards of education.

After 10 accumulated unexcused absences in a school year, the principal or the principal’s designee shall review any report or investigation prepared under G.S. 115C-381 and shall confer with the student and the student’s parent, guardian, or custodian, if possible, to determine whether the parent, guardian, or custodian has received notification pursuant to this section and made a good faith effort to comply with the law. If the principal or the principal’s designee determines that the parent, guardian, or custodian
has not made a good faith effort to comply with the law, the principal shall notify the district attorney and the director of social services of the county where the child resides. If the principal or the principal’s designee determines that the parent, guardian, or custodian has made a good faith effort to comply with the law, the principal may file a complaint with the juvenile court counselor pursuant to Chapter 7B of the General Statutes that the child is habitually absent from school without a valid excuse.

4. In the case of a student or parent being reported to the court for failure of the student to attend school, and the principal is called as a witness, it shall be the principal’s duty to appear when so called at the time and place specified, and have with him/her the teacher’s report of unlawful absence. The teacher may also be called as a witness.

5. He/she must ensure that students are withdrawn on the day following their last day in attendance.

6. He/she must report, in writing, all cases of suspension or expulsion to the social worker and to the local superintendent.

If you have questions pertaining to the Attendance Notification Requirements, please contact Sandra Johnson at sandra.johnson@dpi.nc.gov.

7. Additional Symposium Sessions by Pearson

Please see the attachment from Joe Fox, Pearson Senior Solutions Architect, who will be presenting at the NC WISE Symposium. The sessions referenced in the letter are not listed on the Symposium schedule, so please make a note of the dates and times of his presentation. If you have questions about these sessions or any other Symposium sessions, please contact Phyllis Price at phyllis.price@dpi.nc.gov.

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