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. Reminder: Call for UAB Agenda Items

The next NC WISE User Advisory Board meeting will be held Thursday, January 10 from 10:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. Please submit all agenda items to ncwise@dpi.nc.gov by Monday, January 7, 2013.

This meeting will include the results of the User Reporting Survey. So please try to attend. We will need feedback from users concerning this topic.

A new registration link to attend the UAB meetings has been posted to the NC WISE website. Please click on the following link to register if you plan to attend the meeting via GoTo Webinar: https://www1.gotomeeting.com/register/718903665. Once registered your confirmation link (registration) is good for all UAB meetings through June 20, 2013.

We encourage all attendees to register even if you plan to attend in person.

2. NC WISE Maintenance Weekend for January 2013

This is a reminder that this weekend is a maintenance weekend for NC WISE. Maintenance will be performed on the following systems: eSIS, Webapps, Parent Assistant, UERS and Reporting Hub.
All systems will shut down at 5 p.m., Friday, January 4. Once maintenance is complete a message will be sent to notify users that these systems are up and available. All systems will be restored by 6 a.m., Monday, January 7. If a delay in bringing up the systems should occur, users will be notified via NC WISE email.

3. 2013 NC WISE Symposium Deadlines

HURRY! The deadline for capitalizing on a great fee of $115 to attend the 2013 NC WISE Symposium ends JANUARY 31, 2013. Any registration fees postmarked after this date are subject to the late registration fee of $250. Remember, registrations are not complete until payment is received.

We would also like to remind you that the block of rooms being held at the Sheraton Four Season Hotel in Greensboro, NC for NC WISE Symposium guests will be released on January 23, 2013 as well. So please, make your reservations now so that you will be guaranteed a great rate. A copy of the form is located on the NC WISE website at http://www.ncwise.org/symposium13.html.

The Symposium will be held February 25 – 27 at the Sheraton Four Season, Koury Convention Center in Greensboro, NC. Onsite registration will be available February 24 from 3 p.m. to 5 p.m. and each morning of the conference.

Questions or concerns about the Symposium may be addressed to Phyllis Price, phyllis.price@dpi.nc.gov. Online registration issues may be addressed to Yolanda Wilson, yolanda.wilson@dpi.nc.gov.

We look forward to seeing YOU there!

4. SAR Update

Due to programming issues, SAR edits are not available for review at this time.

Once edits are posted, a timeline will be sent for edit review. The timeline will be adjusted to fit the needs of the SAR edit review process to give schools and LEAs the time needed for required updates.

5. PowerSchool Transition – May 1 Memo

Please read and forward to the appropriate staff the attached memo concerning the PowerSchool transition May 1 scheduling deadline.

If you have questions, please join one of the scheduled webinars as outlined in the letter where we will address additional questions.

6. Home Base (PowerSchool) Implementation Calls for Charters
Charter Schools are being contacted by Pearson Project Managers to begin implementation calls. There was a delay in this process due to the holidays. Contacts will resume next week.

7. Home Base (PowerSchool) Training

The first round of PowerSchool training is kicking off next week. LEAs are reminded that there are seating limitations; therefore, you MUST be REGISTERED and APPROVED to attend these training sessions.

8. Home Base Auto-Gen

Home Base is the statewide student information and instructional improvement* system. PowerSchool, the student information component of Home Base is currently being implemented in North Carolina.

To help provide LEAs/charter schools more efficient service when resolving issues related to Home Base implementation, the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction will begin using the existing Remedy system.

For this purpose, a Remedy auto-gen email address has been created to log all Home Base questions to allow for more efficient and timely ticket logging and resolution. Please use this email address to direct questions or request support from the PowerSchool team. The email address is as follows:

homebase.incidents@its.nc.gov

Remember, this email address is for questions pertaining to the Home Base system which consists of the PowerSchool application and the Instructional Improvement system. Please continue to use the ncwise.incidents@its.nc.gov for all NC WISE support requests.

*The contracts for the instructional improvement system have not been awarded. Once awards are made LEAs/charter schools will be notified.

9. PowerSchool Conversion-Pearson Services

**PowerSchool Conversion – Pearson Services**
The DPI and Pearson have entered into a contractual agreement for the statewide implementation of PowerSchool to replace NC WISE. In addition, we are negotiating a hosting agreement with Pearson for PowerSchool. We want to assure you that these procurements will provide everything your LEA/Charter will need for the successful implementation and operation of PowerSchool. Project management, data conversion, training and other services will be provided and funded by the State throughout the project. You will not need to purchase additional services for this implementation.

While there is not a need to purchase additional services from Pearson for a successful implementation of PowerSchool, there could be additional services that you could obtain from Pearson that are specific for your LEA or charter. We recommend waiting to be sure that the services are not included in the
PowerSchool product unless you do know of some supplemental work that you would like completed during implementation.

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

Local Education Agency (LEA)/Charter Applications – PowerSchool Data Extracts and Reporting
The PowerSchool implementation team is identifying LEA/Charter data extracts and reporting needs. The DPI is developing uniform technical approaches to satisfy common requirements. LEAs/Charters will still be responsible for supplying data to local and third party applications. However, the DPI will continue offering data extracts and reporting services for the more popular local applications and commonly used reports.

More detailed information is being provided to your staff through separate correspondence. As this work progresses and more information is available, I will inform you of the status of this effort.

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

10. Upcoming Training

Pre-Scheduling Refresher – January 23, 2013 @ 1:00 PM and January 31, 2013 @ 1:00 PM
This online session will review timelines, setups and resources related to Pre-Scheduling.

Registration links:

January 23 - https://www1.gotomeeting.com/register/189792640

January 31 - https://www1.gotomeeting.com/register/833452585

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