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 and the PowerSchool project.

1. Home Base PowerSchool Project Update Webinar

Please join us for the last scheduled Home Base PowerSchool Project Update webinar to be held Thursday, June 6 from 1 – 3 p.m. More information on the topics to be discussed will be communicated via NC WISE email.

If you have not registered to attend the previously held webinars but would like to attend this one, please click on the following link to register: https://www1.gotomeeting.com/register/315714961.

2. NC WISE Coordinator Contact Information Update Request

It is essential that we have the correct contact information for all our LEA/charter school NC WISE coordinators. We want to ensure you are receiving all the information needed to make your transition from eSIS to PowerSchool as seamless as possible. Please review the LEA Coordinators’ list (http://www.ncwise.org/documents/communications/list/coordinators_1.pdf) and the Charter School list (http://www.ncwise.org/documents/communications/list/charter_coordinators_2.pdf) posted on the NC WISE website. If the contact information shown on these two lists is incorrect, or if needed information is missing, please send the updated information to ncwise@dpi.nc.gov.

3. PowerSchool Training Reservation Form

Beginning June 1, 2013 we will no longer access Pearson’s training servers. Instead, they will stand up servers for our use as needed. The updated reservation form for requesting these servers has been posted to the NC WISE website’s PowerSchool Training page, http://www.ncwise.org/powerschool_training.html.
If you have questions pertaining to this form, please contact Wendy Hinson at wendy.hinson@dpi.nc.gov.

4. NC WISE Maintenance Weekend Change

Maintenance weekend for the month of June has been changed to June 21 – 24, 2013. This change has been made to accommodate our users by preventing two separate downtimes in one month.

All systems will shut down at 5 p.m., Friday, June 21. 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, June 24. If a delay in bringing up the systems should occur, users will be notified via NC WISE email.

Those with questions, please contact the NCDPI Service Desk at ncwise.incidents@its.nc.gov.

5. End of School Year Reminders

Item 1 - Attendance at End of the School Year

In order to be considered in attendance, a student (except for hospital/homebound or staggered kindergarten) must be present in the school for the school day or at a place other than the school with the approval of the appropriate school official for the purpose of attending an authorized school activity. Such activities may include field trips, athletic contests, student conventions, musical festivals, or any similarly-approved activity.

Except as noted above, a student must be present at least one-half of the school’s instructional day in order to be recorded present for that day. If a student is not present, then the student is absent.

General Statue 115C-378 states in part that no person shall encourage, entice, or counsel any such student to be unlawfully absent from school.

If a student is "exempted from an exam" and is not present in the school for the school day or at a place other than the school with the approval of the appropriate school official for the purpose of attending an authorized school activity, the student is absent.

If graduation occurs prior to the end of the school's 185-Day Instructional Calendar (G.S. 115C-84.2), the days AFTER graduation are still considered part of the student’s instructional school year. If a student is not present half the instructional time, with exceptions as noted above, a student must be recorded as absent. This does not apply to mid-year graduates. The use of the W4 Withdraw Code at the end of a school year is made clear on page 52 of the School Attendance and Student Accounting Manual. The manual can be found at: http://www.ncpublicschools.org/fbs/accounting/manuals/.

Item 2 - Ten-Day Rule at End of the School Year

Please note that this applies only to students that are in violation of the Ten-Day Rule on the last day of the school year.
If a student is in violation of the Ten-Day Rule on the last day of the school year before submission of the Month 9 PMR, the student must be withdrawn from membership on the first day after his/her last day in attendance. The Unlawful Absences for these students should be removed that occurred after the last day of school. For complete information about the Ten-Day Rule refer to the School Attendance and Student Accounting Manual. The manual can be found at http://www.ncpublicschools.org/fbs/accounting/manuals/.

This action results in the following benefits for the schools:
1) Retentions, Promotions, and Graduations Report (RPG) calculates correctly
2) Membership Last Day is more accurate;
3) EOG/EOC testing requirements could be affected.

Please share this information with your administration. If there are any questions or concerns, please contact Ozella Wiggins at ozella.wiggins@dpi.nc.gov or (919) 807-3757.

6. Words to the Wise Newsletter – Year End Transition

The attachment is a special Year End Transition (YET) edition of the "Words to the Wise" newsletter. Please distribute this to all users in your LEA or charter school who are interested in YET information.