

September 11, 2020



Digital Teaching and Learning

DISTRICT SUPPORT



NC SIS Weekly Email Bulletin

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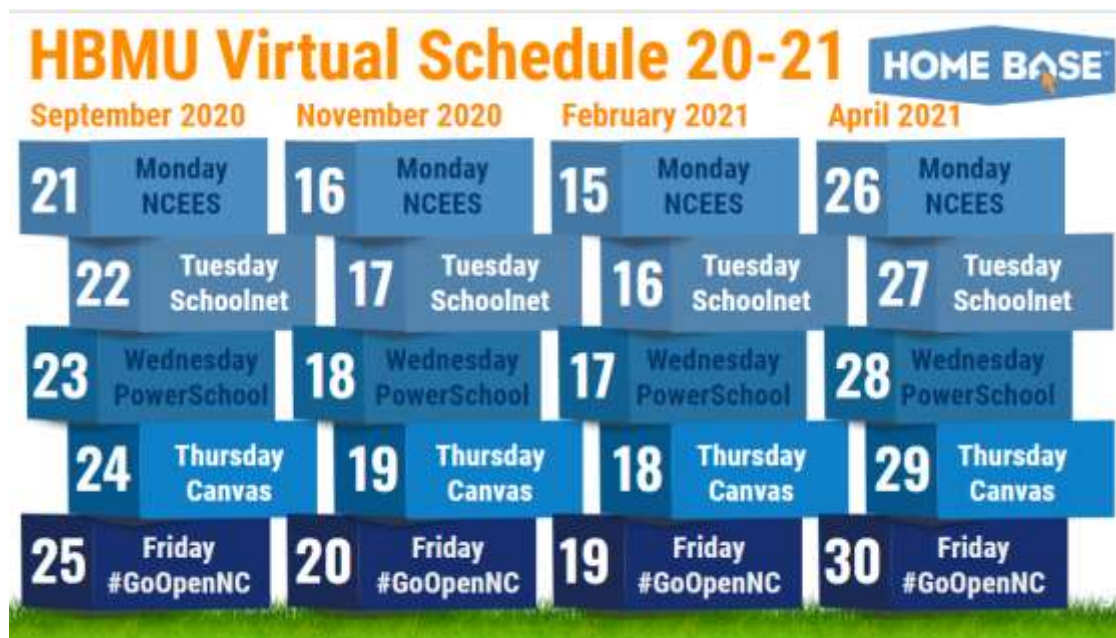
Next Home Base Meet Up - Sept. 21-25, 2020

**Attention: PSU Home Base Product Leads and Users,
Get ready for another information packed, networking experience!**

The Home Base Team would like to invite you to our second 2020-2021 School Year Home Base Meet Up! This year, the Home Base Meet Ups will include training that may be credited at the discretion of the PSU as .1 CEU! Due to COVID-19, all sessions will remain virtual.

We are now using a different platform, Cisco Webex; therefore, registration is required. All you will need to do is visit our [Home Base Meet Ups Invite](#) and select the links for the product sessions you desire to attend.

Future Home Base Meet Up dates are below. Please mark your calendars accordingly.



ECATS and PowerSchool Questions

During the Home Base Meet Up, ECATS DPI personnel will demonstrate to the SIS coordinators how ECATS and PowerSchool share information and basic ECATS functionality. The Home Base Team is very grateful for their participation in the meeting. Please submit any questions you may have by completing this [form](#) prior to the meeting. You have until the end of the day, Tuesday, September 15, to submit your questions.





Next Home Base Maintenance Weekend - Sept. 18 - 21

The next Home Base maintenance weekend is scheduled for September 18-21, 2020. PowerSchool is the only application that will undergo maintenance. All other Home Base applications will remain available.

The PowerSchool application will be brought down on Friday, Sept. 18 at 7 p.m. and returned to service no later than 6 a.m., Monday, Sept.

21. If maintenance is completed prior to Monday morning, systems will be made accessible and users will be notified via email.

Note: Each year, a list of scheduled maintenance windows are published by NCDPI. This is published in advance to help teachers and administrators better prepare for temporary outages and loss of access. Please review the [2020-2021 maintenance schedule](#) and put these dates on your calendar. In most cases, the entire window is not necessary and we can return systems to service earlier than listed. If emergency maintenance is required in addition to these scheduled dates, all users will be notified in advance.

If you have any questions pertaining to this maintenance, please contact the Home Base Team at home_base@dpi.nc.gov.

Transcript Review

Now that the 2020-2021 school year has begun, the end of the 45-day period is approaching where students can decide whether they want a numeric grade or PC19/WC19 based on the COVID-19 grading policy. The 2019-2020 school year grading had a lot of variations that were outside our normal operating procedure due to COVID-19. This makes the transcript review an extremely important process. Those variances could lead to ~~some~~ errors that may have occurred while working with grades last year. The most common mistake seen last year was grades that were changed manually without adjusting the GPA. For example:



A student who has a PC19 and is exempt from GPA chooses to take the numeric grade of 92. The grade is changed manually but the GPA is left exempt. This would make the transcript incorrect with a grade of 92 that should count in GPA but does not.

Remember, a grade that has been exempted from GPA will have an "E" flag to the far right on the transcript. Instructions to correct this common error can be found on page 8 of the [COVID-19 Grading for 9-11 & Non-Graduating Seniors QRD](#). You can also review the [COVID-19 PowerSchool Grading At-A-Glance](#) document for review of the rules in place last year.

It is also important to review our [Understanding GPA document](#) that was created last year. A GPA can be difficult to understand when dealing with half credits, and this document explains the calculations. For example, an "A" would be worth 4 points for a semester or year-long course with 1 credit. However, with a 1/2 credit, that "A" is only worth 2 points — or half the GPA value. This would appear to be wrong in most cases and that is why you should look at the credit earned, grade, and GPA columns to ensure the proper number of GPA points were awarded.

Please let us know if you have any questions. We are here to help you. Thank you for your hard work with ensuring accurate transcripts.



Attendance Expectations for Remote Learning

As we kick off the 2020-2021 school year in remote settings, it is important that teachers and administrators maintain and submit accurate attendance records for state reporting and funding purposes.

A new attendance code has been created for tracking students who are participating in remote instruction. In addition, the default present code description has been modified to specify on-site attendance. Please refer to the Attendance Requirements section of this [document](#) for more information on the attendance code changes and expectations.

After reviewing the various plans that have been submitted by North Carolina PSUs, the Professional Learning Team thought it might be beneficial to provide teachers with some resources that might assist attendance tracking. We are currently working to create a short video for teachers that will walk you through the various options within PowerTeacher Pro and the attendance screen. In the meantime, we have a few documents and video that we'd like to share with you. The following QRDs will help teachers set up seating charts in PTPro to help differentiate between sections that have been split for partial remote and partial face-to-face learning, as well as gain a better understanding of the single and multi-day attendance functions.

- [Using Seating Charts in PowerSchool](#)
- [PowerTeacher Single and Multi-Day Attendance](#)
- [PowerTeacher Attendance \(Video\)](#)

State Reporting Deadline Approaching

The Fall School Start-Time and End-Time Collection is due September 15, 2020.

Remember to enter the school start-time and end-time in PowerSchool according to the quick reference document attached in the link below before running the 2020 -2021 report. The report should be approved at the School Level and District Level in PowerSchool. Contact studentaccounting@dpi.nc.gov for further questions.



QRD: School Start Times and End Times

https://files.nc.gov/dpi/documents/school_info/PS_QRD_SET.pdf



Month 1 PMR Issue

NCDPI is aware that PSUs are not able to run their Month 1 PMR. This issue was reported to the vendor, PowerSchool, and following an investigation, it appears that this is a statewide problem.

Following discussions between PowerSchool, Student Accounting, and the Division of Digital Teaching and Learning, it has been decided to schedule this release during this month's regular maintenance window (September 18-21). NCDPI will submit a case to PowerSchool Support

to have PMR 1 unlocked for schools in all PSUs.

Annual Military Student Identifier Collection - Reminder

The military student identifier is a required annual collection of data on military-connected students. The data collection should be updated by providing a form (paper or electronic) to the parent once at the beginning of each school year. LEAs are required to enter and update the data from these forms into PowerSchool. NC DPI recommends completing these updates by **December 15, 2020**. A [QRD](#) is available for PowerSchool functionality on the military student identifier. An updated [sample form](#) is also available.



When reviewing this information please keep the following in mind.

IMPORTANT: The field options **must** be in place as described even if the form has been edited for local use. There must be room for six relationships included on the local form. The form must also describe these specific values:

- **Relationship:** Mother, Father, Stepfather, Stepmother, Guardian, Sibling, Other
 - **Branches:** Air Force, Army, Coast Guard, Marine Corps, Navy
 - **Status Options:** Active Duty, Activated Guard/Reserve, National Guard, Reserves, Retired Military, Disabled Veteran, Veteran, Federal Civil Service, Deceased, Deceased – KIA, Foreign Military
 - **Pay Grade (Optional):** Enlisted (“E 1” through “E 9” separately), Warrant Officer (“W 1” through “W 5” separately), Officer (“O 1” through “O 10” separately). E 1, E 2, E 3, E 4, E 5, E 6, E 7, E 8, E 9, W 1, W 2, W 3, W 4, W 5, O 1, O 2, O 3, O 4, O 5, O 6, O 7, O 8, O 9, and O 10 are the required value list names. Previously, some systems interpreted this too literally, so we’re providing the value list. Any dashes should be removed and replaced with the space.
 - **Military Installation (Optional):** The facility where the service member fulfills their duty role in the military. [text field in PS] (e.g., Fort Bragg, NG Raleigh Armory, Knightdale Reserve Center etc.)
 - **Unit or Squadron (NOT REQUIRED):** This field will be repurposed as a “Note” labelled text field in a future version of PowerSchool and will still be optional.
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Home Base Webinars

2020-2021 School Year



Pre-Recorded State Reporting Webinar: <https://youtu.be/wyH4sSdmn6g>

- [Principal Monthly Report \(PMR\)](#)
- [Grade Race Sex \(GRS\)](#)
- [Retention Promotion \(RP\)](#)
- [School Activity Report \(SAR\)](#)

Live Q&A Follow-up Webinar via Microsoft Teams

Microsoft Teams link to webinar: [Join Microsoft Teams Meeting](#)

Please join us for the live webinar Q&A scheduled for **September 14, 2020, at 2 PM**. In this session, Amanda Cruz and LaShon Creech will join the Home Base Professional Learning Team to answer any questions PS coordinators may have after watching the [new PMR / SAR video reference guide](#).

New PowerSchool Quick Reference Video: PowerTeacher Attendance Tips for 2020- 2021 and Beyond

The Home Base Professional Learning Team has a new PowerSchool Quick Reference Video aimed at teachers with a few tips and tricks to help them manage attendance in the 2020-2021 school year and beyond using the new 1R: Present Off-Site attendance code. We hope this will be helpful to PSUs as they navigate this unprecedented new school year. Please feel free to share this video with your teachers as-is or modify it to meet your needs. The video mentions that teachers should speak to their school principal or data manager about attendance expectations if they are unclear about your local expectations. If you are a data manager and you have questions, please feel free to contact us at home_base@dpi.nc.gov or log a ticket with PowerSchool.



**Webinar
Recording**

[See PowerTeacher Attendance Tips for 2020-2021 and Beyond on YouTube.](#)



Become a Home Base Empowered Educator!

To kickoff the 2020-2021 school year, the Home Base Team has created a series of eight 30 minute mini-webinars that are available on demand to help you make the most of Schoolnet, Canvas, and #GoOpenNC! CEU credit and a digital badge can be earned by watching at least two webinars. For more information, please visit bit.ly/homebaseb2school20

Canvas Monthly Webinars

Join us, starting in September, for monthly webinars to learn more about Canvas. Webinars will be one hour long and offered at 3 p.m. and 7 p.m. to help you attend the session that best fits your schedule. Educators who attend a live webinar will receive a CEU certificate for 0.1 CEU that is recommended for Digital Learning Competency Credit. All webinars will be recorded and archived on our YouTube channel to rewatch as needed. To register for our Canvas webinars, please visit: bit.ly/nccanvaswebinars



#GoOpenNC Monthly Webinars

Join us, starting in September, for monthly webinars to learn more about #GoOpenNC. Webinars will be one hour long and offered at 10 a.m., 3 p.m., and 7 p.m. to help you attend the session that best fits your schedule. Educators who attend a live webinar will receive a CEU certificate for 0.1 CEU that is recommended for Digital Learning Competency Credit. All webinars will be recorded and archived on our YouTube channel to rewatch as needed. Make sure you [register today](#) for our upcoming webinars!



schoolnet®

Schoolnet Monthly Webinars

Join us, starting in September, for monthly webinars to learn more about Schoolnet. Webinars will be one hour long and offered at 10 a.m., 3 p.m., and 7 p.m. to help you attend the session that best fits your schedule. Educators who attend a live webinar will receive a CEU certificate for 0.1 CEU that is recommended for Digital Learning Competency Credit. All webinars will be recorded and archived on our YouTube channel to rewatch as needed. To register for our Schoolnet webinars, please visit:

bit.ly/ncschoolnetresources

Learning.com

September Webinars

September Webinars by Topic for all Learning.com PSUs

- *Tracking Student Growth through Skills Checks* – Offered Sept. 15 & 17
 - Click here for more information and registration links: ly/lcomvirtualept2020
 - **#NCBOLD has Learning.com Webinars** Join @ncdpiDTL for a series of virtual conferences designed to support NC educators as they develop effective remote/hybrid instruction. #NCBOLD kicks off first event Sept. 15-16. Registration begins Aug. 31. More information coming soon - <http://bit.ly/NCBold>
 - **Description:** Participants will explore Learning.com's digital skills curriculum, including the new **NC Remote Instruction Sequences**, through an interactive, hands-on approach to gain a better understanding of how our ready-made curriculum can help support both remote learning environments and the NC Digital Learning Standards.
 - **Date:** Sept. 15, 2020
 - **Time:** 2:00 p.m. - 3:20 p.m. and 6:30 p.m. - 7:50 p.m. (select the time that works best for you)
 - **Register:** <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/rt/6764002429212722958>
-



NCEES September Webinars

NC Educator Effectiveness System (NCEES) Webinars 2020-2021 with registration links, descriptions, dates and times are posted on the NCEES Google site at <https://sites.google.com/dpi.nc.gov/ncees-information-and-resource/webinars-2020-21>.

Webinars are scheduled for Tuesdays from 4-5 p.m. unless otherwise designated. All will be recorded and posted to DPI's YouTube [NCEES Playlist](#) and also on [NCEES Google site](#) which will include the presentation links for later viewing.

Please mark your September calendars for these webinars: *(Titles are registration links except for #NCBold sessions – click links)*

- [Teachers CEUs - My PD, My Transcript](#) – Tuesday, Sept. 15, 2020, 4-5 p.m.
 - Participants will learn in this hands-on training NCEES webinar how earned credits (CEUs) can show on the staff's "My Transcript", how to locate and take NCDPI and Locally created Professional Learning Opportunities in NCEES, how to manage "My Courses", and how to enter Credit Request.
- **#NCBOLD NCEES Webinars Sept. 15 & 16**

Join @ncdpiDTL for a series of virtual conferences designed to support NC educators as they develop effective remote/hybrid instruction. #NCBOLD kicks off first event Sept. 15-16. Registration begins Aug. 31. More information coming soon - <http://bit.ly/NCBold>

 - **NCEES CEUs - My Professional Development** – *Participants will learn how earned credits (CEUs) can show on the staff's "My Transcript", how to locate and take NCDPI and Locally created Professional Learning Opportunities in NCEES, how to manage "My Courses", and how to enter Credit Requests.*
 - [Click to Register for Sept. 16: 9:30 a.m. - 10:50 a.m.](#)
 - [Click to Register for Sept. 16: 2:00 p.m. - 3:20 p.m.](#)
 - **NCEES- It's all about PDPs and Evals!** – *In this interactive NCEES session, participants will learn how the evaluation and professional development plan correlate and how to best prepare for observations. What does it all really mean for beginning, residency or experienced teachers or support staff?*
 - [Click to Register for Sept. 16: 11:00 a.m. - 12:20 p.m.](#)
 - [Click to Register for Sept. 16: 3:30 p.m. - 4:50 p.m.](#)
 - [Instructional Leadership for Principals](#) – Tuesday, Sept. 22, 2020, 4-5 p.m.
 - School administrators are expected to set high standards for the professional practice of 21st century instruction and assessment. This session will focus on the elements of best instructional and school practices, and the collaborative structures within the school for the design of highly engaging schoolwork for students. Evidence, artifacts and questions for the self-assessment and evaluations for School Executive Standard 2, Instructional Leadership will be reviewed.
 - [PD Office Use to Create Learning Opportunities](#) – Tuesday, Sept. 29, 2020, 4-5 m.
 - This hands-on training webinar will cover in depth how to manage a local NCEES PSU PD Office within NCEES PD component to create all types of Learning Opportunities

NCWiseOwl EBSCO Webinars 2020-2021

PSUs, please share with your teachers the following webinars. **Full descriptions can be found in the NCWiseOwl Toolkit.**

<https://ncdpi.instructure.com/courses/1276/pages/professional-learning-ebSCO>

1. Session Title: Accessibility and Usability Features within EBSCO Resources
[REGISTRATION](#)

Date: Tuesday, September 15, 2020 Time: 4:30 PM – 5:30 PM EST



2. Session Title: Working with EBSCO eBooks

[REGISTRATION](#)

Date: Wednesday, October 7, 2020 Time: 7 PM – 8 PM EST

3. Session Title: EBSCO Reference Center Exploration

[REGISTRATION](#)

Date: Thursday, November 5, 2020 Time: 4:30 PM – 5:30 PM EST



Common Sense Media's Digital Citizenship

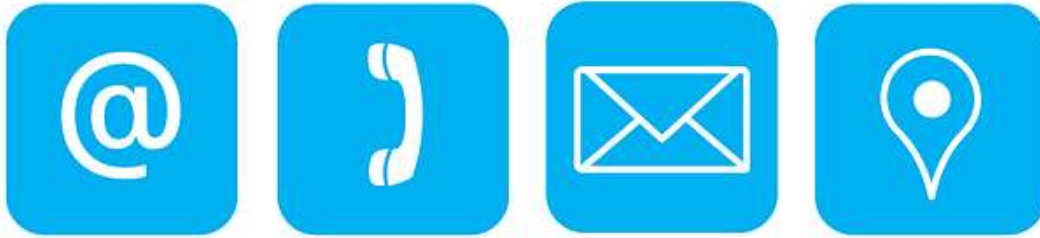
Common Sense Media has been a favored contributing source for the Friday Round Ups. This week highlights the Curriculum section of [Common Sense Media's Digital Citizenship](#). It includes lessons and resources to assist teachers with students and parents/guardians with their child(ren) on how important it is to practice internet etiquette and learn the security issues pertaining to internet usage.

- **Media Balance & Well-Being** – Covers how your digital lives impact your well-being and other relationships; and how to find a good balance in your day to day life.
- **Privacy and Security** – What personal information can be shared and data privacy rights.
- **Digital Footprint and Identity** - Benefits and risks of online sharing; how their digital persona affects self, reputation and relationships.
- **Relationships and Communication** – How to build positive relationships, avoid risky online talk, and how some topics can lend to certain mediums.
- **Cyberbullying Digital Drama & Hate Speech** – How to combat online cruelty.
- **News & Media Literacy** – Students themselves identify credible and trustworthy information sources.

The [Quick Digital Citizenship activities K-5](#) is centered around a video and discussion questions that reaffirms the topic discussed in the video. The [Distance Learning Plans for K-2](#) students and their families have easy to use and customizable packets for Kindergarten, 1st Grade, and 2nd Graders in English and Spanish. Each packet has a Power Point presentation where the focus is to teach the student how to balance their day between technology, online activities and offline activities. The Power Point includes slides on Digital Citizenship Resources for each grade level, and slides that allow the student to set goals for Reading/Writing, Math, well-being, and a few others. There is a section that has [interactive activities](#)

[and lessons for all grades](#). Each grade level discusses three topics related to Digital Citizenship that include short lesson plans (15 mins.) or full lesson plans (25- 45 mins.) On that same page you can find classroom resources, take-home resources, and the option to print or save the plan as a PDF.

We're all in this together to achieve a successful school year - from the kindergartner to the high school senior. Make it a great one!



NCDPI Technology Support Center

NCDPI's Technology Support Center continues to meet your support needs for:

- Schoolnet
- NCEES/Unified Talent
- IAM/SSO (NCEdCloud)
- Staff & Student UID (eScholar)



Support availability:

Web (**NEW**)

URL: https://ncgov.servicenowservices.com/sp_dpi - 24/7

Phone: **919-716-1840**, Monday - Friday, 7 a.m. to 4 p.m. (excluding state holidays)

Technical support for **SIS** needs is handled directly by PowerSchool support using chat, phone, or by opening a case ticket.

Remember to visit the [NC SIS website](#) for additional information including webinars and training documentation. Follow us on twitter [@NCHomeBase](#).

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