Digital Teaching and Learning

ACADEMIC AND DIGITAL LEARNING

HOME BASE

NC SIS Weekly Email Bulletin

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IMPORTANT NOTICE:

PS Coordinators: Set Class Rank Recalculation Frequency to Manual

At the last Home Base Meet-ups, presenters shared that NCDPI was suggesting that LEAs set their recalculation frequency to "Manually". Complete details as to why were not available at the time and many LEAs made no change to their setup. **This is a very urgent matter and we are providing reasoning in this communication.**

When the calculations run daily, each Rank/GPA is calculated for every student in that school. For example, a High School that has a little over 1300 students and 4 different Ranks/GPAs, will write approximately 5200 records to the S_NC_HIST_RANK table nightly. Over time this adds up. Just for this one school, there are over 10.5 million records in the table. Once you multiple that by the number of schools in the district or state, this table becomes almost unusable. Performance is slowed for everyone in the district that runs a process against the table. In addition, any school can set this frequency so we are seeing the graduated, elementary, and middle schools with Ranks/GPAs in this table. This only adds to the number of records and performance issues.

NCDPI is working with PowerSchool to put a permanent fix in place. However, we can not complete that work as long as this many records continue to be created every night. We are asking that all districts change the recalculation frequency for all schools to "Manually" prior to the February 9 maintenance weekend. Instructions on how to make these changes can be found in the Class Rank QRD. Any districts who are still set to anything other than "Manually" on February 9 will be changed by DPI. Once the work is complete, we will send out another communication informing LEAs that the setting can be changed back.

If you have any questions or need further assistance, please contact the NCDPI Support Center at: https://nc-myit.us.onbmc.com.

PowerSchool

New 'TR' Code to be Used to Identify Transfer Courses

The PowerSchool Team is working with Accountability to create a simplified process that will help track transfer credits for testing purposes. This process will eliminate the need to use the 'S' exemption code.

PowerSchool Coordinators and Data Managers are NOT being asked to go back and change any current records. However, moving forward LEAs should begin entering "TR" in the "Credit Type" field that is associated with transfer courses under the student's Historical Grades screen. The Historical Grades QRD is currently being updated and will be shared in next week's newsletter.

The primary purpose of this new data entry requirement is to reduce the burden on PS data managers when a student comes from out-of-state, home school or private school and is granted credit for a course.

In the past, for school accountability purposes, if a student was granted credit in a course with an End-of-Course (EOC) exam the data manager was required to enter an 'S' code for the associated EOC on the student's testing history page. Accountability will now use the 'TR' data entry to signify credit for the associated EOC in these cases.

If you have any questions or need further assistance, please contact the NCDPI Support Center at: https://nc-myit.us.onbmc.com.

Governor Cooper Encourages NC High School Girls to Join Innovative Cybersecurity Competition

Please read and forward to the appropriate staff this great opportunity for girls to get involved in Cybersecurity. The state of NC is one of 16 states to participate in this limited engagement. The competition is open to girls in grades 9 through 12. Registration is open!

https://governor.nc.gov/news/gov-cooper-encourages-nc-high-school-girls-join-innovative-cybersecurity-competition
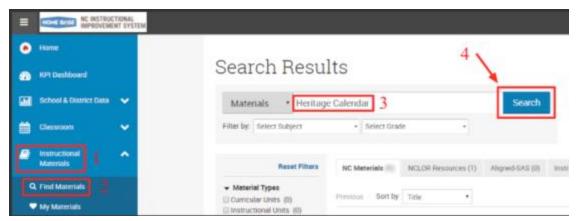

The Heritage Calendar: Celebrating the NC African-American Experience

The North Carolina Department of Public Instruction is proud to have partnered with AT&T to provide educational resources for The Heritage Calendar 2018: Celebrating the NC African-American Experience.

The Heritage Calendar is project sponsored and created by AT&T (since 2013) in an effort to recognize and honor a diverse group of individuals who have made significant contributions to the lives, causes, and experiences of African Americans in North Carolina. The 2018 Edition of the Calendar features outstanding and remarkable individuals who have made achievements in a variety of fields including education, business, the performing arts, athletics, community service, law, and STEM. Each honoree is considered to be a "role model through their integrity, vision, and dedication to excellence".

We are excited to announce that twenty-nine of the 2018 Heritage Calendar Lesson Plans are now available in Schoolnet. Educators across the state can search for the term "Heritage Calendar" on the "Find Materials" page of the Instructional Materials section of Schoolnet. The lesson plans cover a variety of grade levels and subject areas and have been vetted by our content specialists. To access lesson plans, please see the image below.

If you have questions or would like to nominate someone for a future calendar, visit the Contact Us page on the Heritage Calendar website.

ESSA's Partial Enrollment Business Rules Webinar

The NCDPI Accountability, PowerSchool, Career and Technical Education as well as Education Effectiveness divisions are hosting a webinar discussing accountability business rules related to ESSA's partial enrollment requirements. Information will be shared regarding student information management data points used and the accountability measures.

Anyone is invited to attend this webinar and local teams are encouraged to attend together.

The webinar will be held on Friday, February 9, 2018 from 1-2 p.m.
Please register for the ESSA Partial Enrollment Business Rules Webinar at:
https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/8983213796837951491.

New/Updated Information on the Website

Alerts in the NCDPI SIS Plug-in (Added Military Alert to Teacher Portal) - Updated 1/31/2018

NC SIS Training Calendar

Spring is almost here, and the Home Base Training Team has prepared webinars designed to meet your school business needs. Remember to visit the NC SIS Training Calendar frequently for training updates.

Hands-on training sessions will be held at the NC Department of Public Instruction, 301 N. Wilmington Street, Room 564, Raleigh, NC, unless stated otherwise. Click HERE for directions to NCDPI and parking information. All attendees must be an employee of the NC Public School System to participate. Management companies are not permitted to attend.

Registration links are provided below. Please try to register early for workshops due to space limitations.

Note: All registration information is subject to the North Carolina Public Records Law.

Upcoming Webinars

PowerSchool Pre-Scheduling Q & A Webinar

This webinar will not contain any presentation. It will be an open forum for attendees to ask their scheduling questions to a panel of DPI staff members. The intended audience for this webinar is LEA coordinators, data managers, and counselors.

Date: February 7, 2018
Time: 2 p.m. - 3 p.m.
Registration:
https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/8460696183049974273
After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the webinar.

Upcoming Workshops

NEWNew Data Manager Training Workshop

This two day workshop is for new PowerSchool Data Managers who have not attended the 5 day IPT Certification Training or the 8 day District Certification Training. It is designed to give new data managers some training on certain topics provided in these PowerSchool trainings. This is NOT an extension of the 5 day IPT or 8 day district certification sessions.

YOU MUST BRING YOUR OWN DEVICE
Computers/laptops/devices are NOT available.

Important: Attendees must be an employee of a North Carolina Public school. Management companies and its employees are not permitted to attend.

Date: February 15-16, 2018
Time: 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. each day

Location: NCDPI
Registration: http://bit.ly/PS_New_DM_Reg

**Please note, that all registration information is subject to North Carolina Public Records Law. NCDPI has the right to combine or cancel sessions if not enough attendees register

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Remember to visit the NC SIS website for additional information including webinars and training documentation.

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