



Home Base Improvements in Schoolnet Version 15.2

The Home Base Instructional Improvement System (Schoolnet) was upgraded over the weekend (Dec. 7-8). This new version, 15.2, includes some new features, addresses many identified bugs, and is designed to significantly improve product responsiveness and stability.

What's new and better in 15.2?

- Districts and schools are now able to aggregate data on performance-based tasks, as well as administer the assessment via system-generated answer sheets. The performance-based task items allow multiple types of questions to be tied together to complete one task item.
- Educators will be able to create both single- and multiple-selection hot spot assessment items for tests administered online and will have the ability to create, edit and report against “hot spot” assessment items. For example, when asking a multiple-choice question ‘What is the capitol of NC?’, a hot spot assessment could include a state map showing four cities marked as answer choices A-D. The student would click on the correct city to answer.
- When assessments contain tasks, administrators will now be able to see the aggregate results of the task item and distribution of tasks, and their associated activities across the district/state.
- Test administrators can now bulk upload scores as a CSV file on assessments that include multi-dimensional rubrics and performance-based task activities.
- Users creating an Express Test can filter the available test items by searchable item statistics attributes. Users can also filter item searches by item statistics attributes to locate the most effective items and/or to locate items that performed poorly and need to be revised.
- Items can now be co-written. For instance, this new feature lets a teacher invite any other teacher who has the ability to create an item to create the item together as co-authors. You can create “view” access or “edit” access for co-authors, and there is no limit to the number of co-authors who can be added to an item.
- A Student Self-Assessment test property has been added to allow a student to score his/her own open-response questions, including those with rubrics, and record their comments explaining their rationale.
- Answer sheets were updated to include tasks in order to reduce the amount of paper required to print the plain paper answer sheets, and a new version of ScanIt will be required for these updates. Please note that you do not need to do anything for this upgrade. When you launch ScanIt in the 15.2 release, it will automatically upgrade to the new version of ScanIt.
- Educators now have space on the answer sheet to add comments. These answer sheets can be scanned using ScanIt and results will appear in Schoolnet.
- Activities from the performance-based tasks will print as part of the tasks on the answer sheets, and there are three available layouts available for the answer sheets.

What was fixed?

Highlights include:

- Improved speed when generating answer sheets
- Customization of test numbers is now working
- Assessment Admin user access fixed
- Improved ability to select multiple grades during search
- Score Test "Score" column now reflecting scores
- Ability to generate and print answer sheets
- Server errors when creating test fixed

Outstanding Known Issue #1: Errors with Administering Some Online Assessments

If you are planning on giving an assessment online, it is imperative that you preview the assessment before giving an online test to students. Currently a subset of the assessment items with images are not rendering correctly as a student is taking a test. The result is an error message that prevents students from completing an assessment online. If you can preview it online, you should be able to administer it to students online.

The workaround to the above is to turn on Manipulatives:

If your assessment does not work in preview, do the following:

- 1) Go to Test Properties
- 2) Click Edit Properties
- 3) Go to Enable Tools and Manipulatives and click "Yes" radio button.
- 4) Turn on one of the manipulatives.
- 5) Save
- 6) Preview the test. If the test displays in preview, your students will be able to take the test online.

If it does not work in preview, users should print answer sheets and give pencil-and-paper versions of assessments and use the ScanIt software to load the results into the system. Please alert us immediately if you experience this problem by emailing homebase.incidents@its.nc.gov. For more information on how to use ScanIt, you can find the presentation on how to use it or watch the recorded video at <http://www.ncpublicschools.org/homebase/resources/videos/webinars/> or find the User Guide at <http://www.ncpublicschools.org/docs/homebase/training/materials/schoolnet/classroom-benchmark/20131017-nc-scanit-guide.pdf>.

Outstanding Known Issue #2: Item Search

An additional search issue has been identified in 15.2. When searching for individual assessment items within the Schoolnet item banks, users will sometimes get an error message. Pearson is working to resolve this issue as a high-priority fix. Please alert us immediately if you experience this problem by emailing homebase.incidents@its.nc.gov.