



# PUBLIC SCHOOLS OF NORTH CAROLINA

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FROM June St. Clair Atkinson 

Philip W. Price 

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## INSTRUCTIONAL IMPROVEMENT SYSTEM ANNOUNCEMENT

Last week, the NC Department of Public Instruction (NCDPI) finalized a contract with Pearson to provide the following components of the instructional improvement system: Standards and Curriculum; Instructional Design; Practices and Resources; Assessment; and Data Analysis & Reporting. NCDPI will begin rollout of the instructional improvement system functionality to all North Carolina public schools in the fall of 2014. The effective date of the contract is December 31, 2012, clearing the way for development and implementation work to move forward.

The instructional improvement system will provide teachers with collaboration tools, instructional tools and resources, student assessments, learner profiles, and reporting tools to help teachers customize lessons and other materials to improve student educational outcomes.

Together, the instructional improvement system and the new student information system, PowerSchool, will comprise Home Base – North Carolina’s technology support for teaching and learning in all public schools and public charter schools.

We are very excited about the possibilities that Home Base offers in terms of saving teachers time, improving the quantity of high quality teaching materials, building strong collaboration among educators, and supporting and customizing educational opportunities for students. The student data collected in PowerSchool will directly integrate with the instructional tools to enable individualized student instruction and eliminate redundant data entry.

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The implementation of both major components of Home Base will be done simultaneously with the PowerSchool full implementation in the summer of 2013. PowerSchool, as the replacement of NC WISE, is mandatory for all public schools.

Regarding the instructional improvement system, only the statewide summative student assessments and the educator evaluation functions (where a contract has yet to be established) are mandatory for local schools and districts. The remainder of the functionality is optional. However, we anticipate that local educators will be eager to use the entire suite of instructional tools since the statewide buying power will make the resources more affordable than other solutions.

This is an exciting time for North Carolina schools, as we are able to leverage technology to improve teaching and learning. On January 31, there will be a Home Base Introductory Webinar for Teachers from 3:30-5 p.m. To register, go to website: <https://www1.gotomeeting.com/register/864552585>. During the webinar, teachers will receive an overview of Home Base and a short demo of some of the instructional improvement functionality that will be available. Home Base Introductory Webinars are held monthly and announced in the Race to the Top Teacher Calendar e-mailed each month to teachers, principals, and superintendents. Information will be provided about piloting and training in the coming months.

More information is online about Home Base and the instructional improvement tools at [www.ncpublicschools.org/homebase](http://www.ncpublicschools.org/homebase).

JSA/PWP/tm