HOME BASE℠

Parent Portal Guide:
How-to for Parents

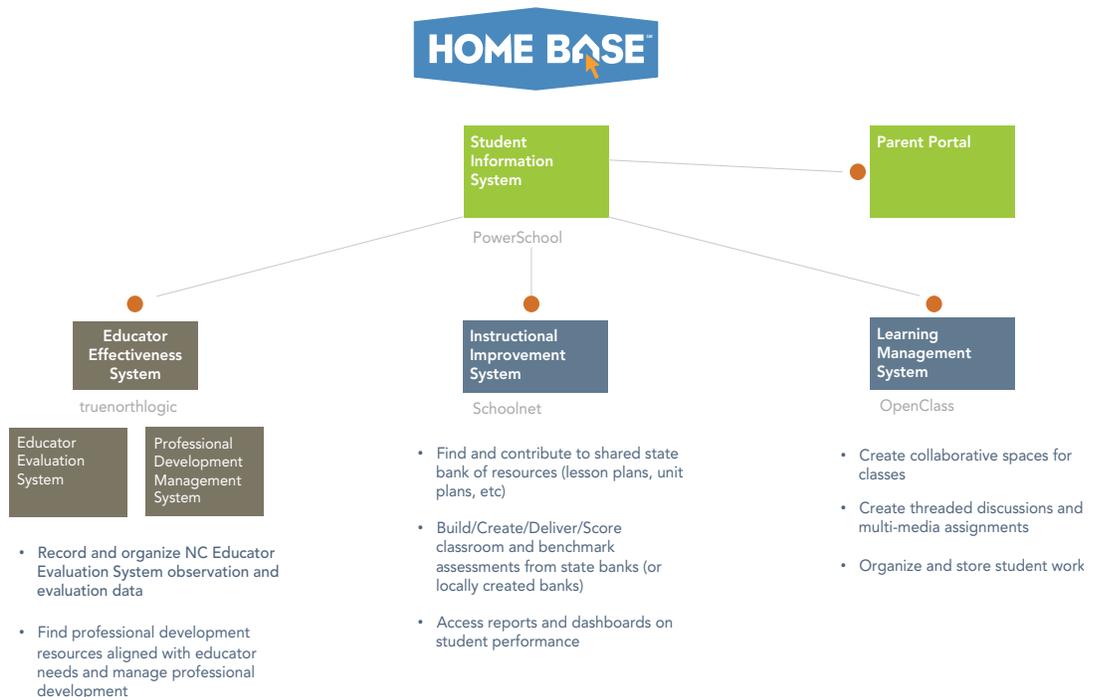2014-15

HOME BASE

Keeping You Connected

We know you are passionate about your student's futures and are responsible for providing the direction to help them succeed in school. Home Base is a suite of technology tools available in all North Carolina public schools. There's one component we hope parents across the state are as excited about as we are – the Parent Portal.

We've designed this Guide to walk you through the what, when and how of the Home Base Parent Portal, but actually, many of its features are quite intuitive for basic computer users. Read on to discover:
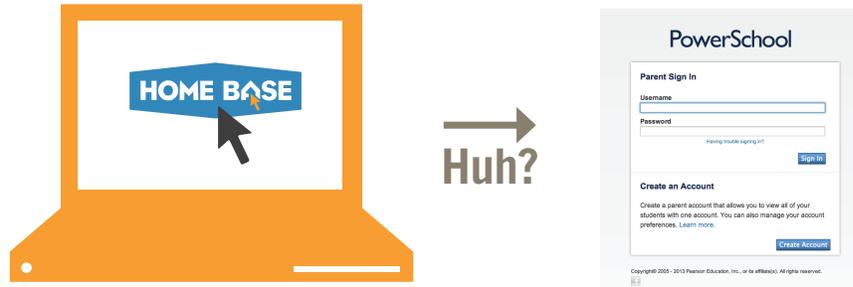
– A series of **Q**+**A**s based on early users and program designers
– Tips from schools and school districts regularly using the portal
– What you can expect to find in the portal.

HOME BASE

Student Information System

PowerSchool

Parent Portal

Educator Effectiveness System

truenorthlogic

| Educator Evaluation System | Professional Development Management System |

- Record and organize NC Educator Evaluation System observation and evaluation data
- Find professional development resources aligned with educator needs and manage professional development

Instructional Improvement System

Schoolnet

- Find and contribute to shared state bank of resources (lesson plans, unit plans, etc)
- Build/Create/Deliver/Score classroom and benchmark assessments from state banks (or locally created banks)
- Access reports and dashboards on student performance

Learning Management System

OpenClass

- Create collaborative spaces for classes
- Create threaded discussions and multi-media assignments
- Organize and store student work

Q1: **What is Home Base and what is PowerSchool and where does this portal fit in?**

Huh?

A1: Home Base is home to a suite of web-based technology tools. It houses several major components, including PowerSchool, Truenorthlogic, Schoolnet and OpenClass.
The Parent Portal is actually accessed through PowerSchool and gives parents and students access to real-time information including attendance, grades and for students, detailed assignment descriptions and even personal messages from the teacher.

Data Input → *Just so you're in-the-know, here are the main components of Home Base:*

PowerSchool is a *student information system,* which enables NC educators to make timely decisions that impact student performance while creating a collaborative environment for parents, teachers and students.

PowerSchool also will auto-populate students' information to the rest of the suite below:

Truenorthlogic offers tools designed to support the ongoing *professional growth* of K-12 educational leaders and teachers. These tools run our Educator Effectiveness system, which includes both educator evaluation and professional development.

Schoolnet is a suite of data-driven education tools for *instructional improvement* that aligns with the NC Standard Course of Study; guides collaborative discussion and enables targeted instruction for every student. As parents, you might be impressed to know teachers have at their fingertips right now 35,000+ assessment items and more than 10,000 aligned, instructional resources, all approved by the Department of Public Instruction.

OpenClass is a dynamic *learning management system* that helps educators bring social learning and collaboration to their students. Parents might notice their children doing joint projects online with their classmates, for instance, or engaged in a live chat with a teacher.

NOW YOU KNOW
Some districts have included an introduction to the Parent Portal as part of their PTA Open Houses or face-to-face teacher meetings. Don't be shy to ask if any such hands-on, user event is planned at your school in the near future.
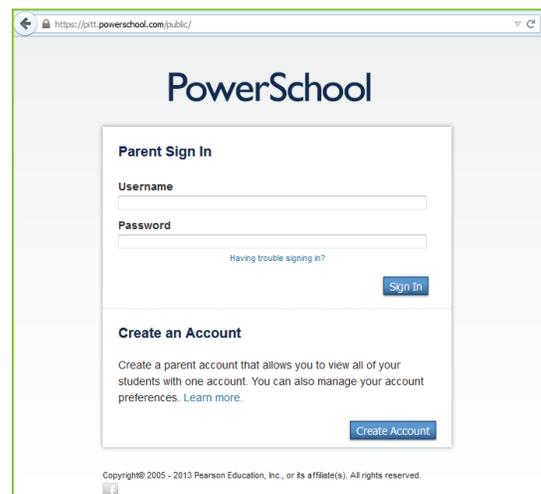
Q2: How do I get started in the Parent Portal?

A2: Check your school or school district's website for a link for "Parents" or "Home Base." Also, download our Quick Training Guide online with easy-to-follow instructions and screenshots.

- The Home Base URL is specific to your district.
- A Home Base Parent Portal Account allows you access to view the information for one or more students with a single sign on, if enabled.
- You can also manage your personal account preferences.

Q3: Why don't all schools have the same level of access to parent portal?

A3: **Student access and parent access to Home Base can be activated at any time, but it's up to the district to decide.**

Before students can sign in to the Student Portal, they will need:
– access that has been enabled by your district or school (system on and ready),
– their school's PowerSchool public portal URL,
– an initial access username (student web ID, issued by your school), and
– an initial access password (student web password, issued by your school).

Before parents can sign in to the Parent Portal, they will need:
– access that has been enabled by your district or school (system on and ready),
– their school's PowerSchool public portal URL,
– their username (parent web ID, issued by your school), and
– their password (parent web password, issued by your school).

NOW YOU KNOW

It's not uncommon for schools to give parents of middle and/or high school students access to the Parent Portal first. Parents of elementary-age students generally have more frequent contact with a single classroom teacher; whereas middle and high school students and their parents interact with multiple teachers. The Home Base Parent Portal is perfect for that.

Q4: My friend can see much more about her student's grades and assignments than I can. Why?

A4: The majority of the parent portal information is populated when teachers enter test scores, homework assignments and more. Some school districts or schools have set a recommended frequency for updates; others have not.

Grades and Attendance

Grades and Attendance:

		Attendance By Class								
Exp	Last Week M T W H F	This Week M T W H F	Course	Q3	Q4	E2	F1	Absences	Tardies
1(A)			English III - Rm: 408					0	0
2(A)			Career Management - Rm: 513					0	0
3(A)			Agriscience Applications - Rm: 608					0	0
4(A)			Discrete Mathematics - Rm: 208					0	0
							Attendance Totals	**0**	**0**

Show dropped classes also

	Attendance By Day						
Last Week M T W H F	This Week M T W H F	Absences S2 YTD	Tardies S2 YTD
		0 0	0 0
	Attendance Totals	0 0	0 0

Grade History:

E1				
Course	Grade	%	Cit	Hrs
Civics and Economics	84	84		0.00
College Prep Eng III	80	80		0.00
MATH II	72	72		0.00
Multimedia and Webpage Design--Honors	75	75		0.00
F1				
Course	Grade	%	Cit	Hrs
Civics and Economics	89	89		1.00
College Prep Eng III	92	92		1.00
MATH II	90	90		1.00
	85	85		1.00

Q5: **Why can't I get into the Parent Portal when my friend is able to?**

A5: **There are many variables that could affect your online experience with the Parent Portal.**

– When Home Base is down for maintenance, for instance, it is inaccessible for users, including parents. Planned maintenance weekends are known and announced in advance. If this information is not available locally, please check our Twitter feed @NCHomeBase or navigate to http://www.nc-sis.org/Documents/maintenance/Home_Base_Maintenance_Sched.pdf

– In our first year of Home Base, we found that some school districts opted to turn off PowerSchool as they transitioned from one school year to the next. Please read all communications from your school to check for other possible times of inaccessibility.

PowerSchool

Parent Sign In

⚠ This account has been disabled.
Contact your school directly for assistance.

Username

Password

Having trouble signing in?

Sign In

Create an Account

Create a parent account that allows you to view all of your students with one account. You can also manage your account preferences. Learn more.

Create Account
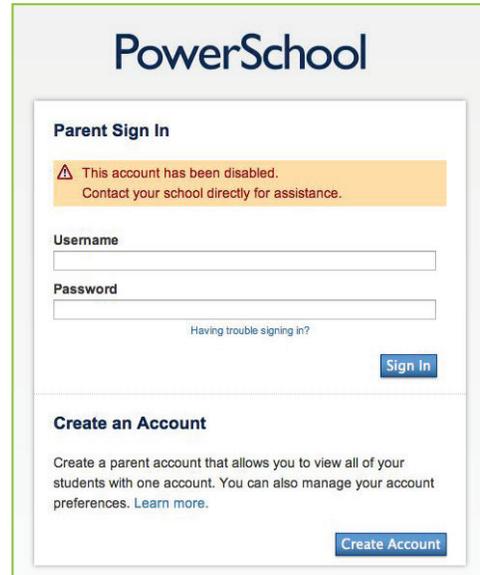
Q6: How can I make sure I'm getting all that I can in my Parent Portal?

A6: You can set up the type of notifications you get and how often.

The types of information you can see include:
- Attendance detail: absences, tardies and other attendance codes. Students are listed as present by default unless otherwise indicated
- Assignments and grades are populated when the teacher publishes Gradebook information.
- Teachers can be emailed by using the teacher name link.

Email Notifications:

What information would you like to receive?
- ☐ Summary of current grades and attendance
- ☐ Detail report showing assignment scores for each class.
- ☐ Detail report of attendance.
- ☐ School announcements.
- ☐ Balance Alert (Note: will only be sent when student is low on funds).

How often?	Never
Email Address	@gmail.com
Additional Email Addresses	

(separate multiple email addresses with commas)

- ☐ Apply these settings to all your students?
- ☐ Send now for ?

Submit

NOW YOU KNOW

Download the mobile app for both IOS and Android online. It's free.

Mobile Apps

| PowerTeacher Mobile | PowerSchool for Parents | PowerSchool for Students |

PowerSchool for Parents

Download on the App Store   GET IT ON Google play

Q7: Will my child still have access if I do not create an account?

A7: Yes, students will be provided information to access their data even if parents do not request access.

Q8: How can I find out if my school has Parent Portal on?

A8: Contact your school or the school district office.

READY
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PUBLIC SCHOOLS OF NORTH CAROLINA
State Board of Education | Department of Public Instruction