



Home Base: Empower, Engage, Support, Connect

MARCH 2017

Goal: Provide North Carolina educators and students with the Home Base suite of digital applications to improve teaching and learning in every classroom and school to minimize digital inequities.

NC State Board of Education Goals:

- Goal 2: Every student has a personalized education
- Goal 3: Every student, every day has excellent educators
- Goal 4: Every school district has up-to-date financial, business, and technology systems to serve its students, parents and educators

Status: The Home Base design includes a robust and industry-competitive set of applications to develop and support educators' best practices to engage students in a more personalized education. The following required components of Home Base are provided to all traditional and charter schools:

- PowerSchool (a Student Information System) and
- Truenorthlogic (for teacher evaluation and state-level professional development).

Each district has the option to purchase additional Home Base components and features:

- Schoolnet (an Instructional Improvement System),
- Canvas (a Learning Management System), and
- Truenorthlogic (for local-level professional development).

Stakeholder Impact of Home Base:

- Teachers: Empower teachers to measure and assess student progress, to differentiate instruction based on students' individual learning needs, and to engage in professional development.
- Students: Provide flexible and personalized learning environments for increased student ownership and engagement through access to interactive and digital resources, assignments, grades, and near-instant performance feedback.
- Administrators: Support administrators with school operations and continuous improvement, such as monitoring student, teacher, and school performance, determining student and teacher assignments, reviewing teacher effectiveness, and engaging in professional development.
- Parents: Deliver insight into student's learning, attendance, performance and grades and offer a platform for parent communication with teachers and school administrators.

Strategies:

To best meet stakeholders' needs and to ensure the fidelity of Home Base adoption and implementation across all LEAs, the following action steps have been identified as essential:

- Develop and maintain a Home Base portal as a single access point for Home Base applications for teachers to locate, create, share, and use high-quality digital content and resources with students.
- Implement a system for continuous improvement of Home Base to capitalize on emerging industry best practices as well as maximize stakeholder usability and effectiveness.

Recommendation(s) based on the State Board of Education Expansion Budget:

1. Enhancing the Classroom Experience for Teachers and Students
 - Continue and enhance funding to ensure a rigorous educational experience for teachers and students through seamless access to Home Base.
 - Ensure funding for accessing standards-aligned digital content through an Instructional Improvement System at no cost to LEAs.
2. Enhancing the Skills of the Team
 - Allocate financial and human resources to strengthen educator capacity with Home Base by providing training in such areas as analyzing data and report creation, student performance and data-driven instruction, and advanced use of the teacher gradebook.
 - Increase and sustain investment in the Digital Learning Initiative that identifies the Home Base portal as an essential deliverable.