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INDIANA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

Dr. Jenner's Weekly Update

Weekly Newsletter from the Indiana Department of Education

November 6, 2022

A Message from Dr. Katie Jenner

With Veterans Day coming up on Wednesday, many schools across our state are preparing celebrations to honor the men and women who have served our nation.

Beyond recognizing our students and communities together, these moments of recognition teach students the importance of service, sacrifice, and dedication...all while reminding us of the freedoms we enjoy every day because of our nation's veterans.

Veterans Day is a powerful reminder that **service extends beyond wearing the uniform**. It means showing up for others, leaving behind a better world for generations and it means to be part of something greater than ourselves...and standing up for the values and beliefs upon which this country was founded.

It also reminds us of the importance of the **civic responsibility** that each of us has to leave our communities, state, and nation better than we found it.

As Veterans Day approaches, Indiana is proud to recognize over 75 Indiana Purple Star schools. Selected in collaboration with the Indiana National Guard, these schools demonstrate a unwavering commitment to supporting our military and their families. This year's designees include 35 newly-designated Purple Star Schools, in addition to 41 schools that renewed their designation. The designation is valid for three years. A full list is available here.

At our Purple Star Schools, honoring those who serve is more than a single day of recognition. It is part of the school's culture and ensures military-connected families feel valued and supported. Not only do these schools strengthen military families, they also help inform our students a deep sense of **appreciation** and **patriotism**.

Thank you to all the schools across Indiana who go above and beyond to honor our veterans and support our military and their families. And to our veterans who have shaped our nation, thank you for your **service, bravery, and sacrifice**.

Legislative Guidance

UPDATE: Wireless Communication Device Policy - New Guidance for Students Filing the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)
Senate Enrolled Act (SEA) 76 (2022) provides definitions, requirements, restrictions, and exceptions for wireless communication devices in Indiana public school operations and charter schools. This updated memo includes guidance for students' access to personal wireless communication devices when filing the FAFSA. Contact the Indiana Department of Education's (IDOE's) Digital Learning Team with questions.

Office of Assessment

REMINDER: Grades Three to Eight ILEARN Through-Year Mathematics Guidance - Additional Support Materials
Additional materials are now available to support educators, schools, and corporations implementing the ILEARN Through-Year Mathematics Guidance: Using Checkpoint Data and Learning Progressions to Support All Students (Grades Three-Eight), Applying the Data Triangulation Process is a two-page resource that provides a detailed walkthrough of how to apply the data triangulation process after each ILEARN Mathematics Checkpoint administration. The optional Grades Three-Eight Mathematics Data Triangulation Workbook is also available to further support the triangulation process, guide development of intervention goals and services, and assist with progress monitoring and parent communication. Contact IDOE's Office of Assessment with questions.

Office of Curriculum and Instruction, Digital Learning, and Kindergarten Readiness

NEW: Artificial Intelligence (AI) Guidance
Indiana's revised AI Guidance introduces new topics, new checklist for educators, which includes six guiding questions to address when considering the role of AI platforms in the classroom. Corresponding exemplars accompany each question. A recorded webinar for professional development will continue to be released to build on this document. Contact IDOE's Digital Learning Team with questions.

NEW: Tiered System of Supports Live Series - Applying Data Triangulation in Mathematics (Grades Three-Eight) Slides, Recording, and Parking Lot Now Available
The Applying Data Triangulation in Mathematics (Grades Three-Eight) Tiered System of Supports Live Series: Applying Data Triangulation in Mathematics (Grades Three-Eight) webinar on Monday, October 26, can now access the recording, slides, and parking lot. Contact IDOE's Office of Curriculum and Instruction with any questions.

NEW: 2026-2027 STEM Integration Grant Virtual Kick-Off Slides and Recording
IDOE is pleased to announce the 15 recipients of the 2026-2027 STEM Integration Grant. This competitive grant opportunity supports schools and state-approved eligible entities in the development and implementation of STEM programs for all students. A virtual kick-off meeting was held on Wednesday, October 26, from 1 to 2 p.m. ET to share more about management of the grant. Access the slides and the recording of the kick-off meeting. Contact IDOE's Office of Curriculum and Instruction with any questions.

NEW: 2026-2027 High Ability Program Grant Next Steps Webinar Slides and Recording
The 2026-2027 High Ability Program Grant is designed to support traditional public and charter schools in identifying and providing services for high ability students in kindergarten through grade 12. High ability coordinators and district administrators are encouraged to review the Next Steps webinar slides and recording to learn more about the path forward for how to use funds to submit their awards, coordinate and budget professional development, and more. Those unable to access the slides and recording can contact IDOE's Office of Curriculum and Instruction and Jennifer Wall-Bailey with any questions.

NEW: From Coding to Computational Thinking - Professional Development Session Recording Now Available
The workshop, How Should Students Learn Computer Programming, took place on Wednesday, October 28. Computer programming was one core domain of the K-8 Indiana Academic Standards for Computer Science (CS), as well as the widely taught Next Level Program of Studies course 4065. *Computing Foundations for a Digital Age*. A recording of the session is now available on making programming relevant to the age of AI in now available in the Teach CS and AI with IDOE collection. Contact IDOE's Office of Curriculum and Instruction with any questions.

REMINDER: How AI Works - What Everyone Needs to Know Series
Help your students envision AI's possibilities, approaching it with caution and curiosity, or somewhere in between. Additionally, Scholastic has scheduled for 4 p.m. ET in mid-November. Register to attend this series. Contact IDOE's Digital Learning Team with questions.

REMINDER: Mathematics Webpage Updates
IDOE recently updated the Mathematics webpage. Updates include a revised Theory of Action and corresponding explanation, expanded Resource Collections with separate sections for grades three through five and grades six through eight, and a new parent and family resources section. In addition, the Mathematics Assessment section has been refreshed with updated links and brand new resources to support educators, students, and families. Contact IDOE's Office of Curriculum and Instruction with any questions.

REMINDER: Virtual High Ability Coordinator Workshop
For those unable to attend the in-person High Ability Coordinator workshops, join IDOE for this virtual session designed to provide essential information, practical resources, and actionable strategies for supporting high ability learners. Whether you're a seasoned coordinator or new to the role, this session will help you refine your approach and strengthen your understanding of high ability learner programming. Register for this virtual session on Tuesday, November 17, from 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. ET. Contact IDOE's Office of curriculum and Instruction High Ability with any questions.

REMINDER: Data Science Math Pilot Opportunity for Indiana High Schools
IDOE invites high school principals and leaders to a virtual information session on the upcoming data science math pilot. Each school will receive a stipend to support the pilot's implementation, and next steps for potential participation in the pilot. Participating schools will pilot teaching *Algebra 1* taught through a data science lens during the 2027-2028 school year, followed by a fourth-year data science course in the 2028-2029 school year. Learn more about the opportunities and next steps in data science education and choose the session that works best for you: Contact IDOE's Office of Curriculum and Instruction with questions.

- Tuesday, November 10, at 1 p.m. ET
- Thursday, November 12, at 2 p.m. ET
- Friday, November 13, at 9 a.m. ET

Office of Educator Preparation

NEW: Seeking Elementary Educator Preparation Program - Mathematics Review Team Members
IDOE's Office of Higher Education and Educator Preparation Programs is recruiting educators and stakeholders to serve on review teams that will review applications for elementary educator preparation programs for alignment with new requirements focused on evidence-based mathematics instruction, high-quality instructional materials, and data-informed teaching practices. Selected reviewers will participate in virtual full morning-long sessions and asynchronous work to review and score applications. Interested individuals with reviews expected to occur during February and March 2027. Individuals interested in serving on a review team should complete the application form by Friday, November 20. Contact Renee Bandito with questions.

Office of Educator Talent and Literacy

NEW: 2026-2027 Teacher Appreciation Grant (TAG) Application Now Available
The Indiana Code 20-40-18-5, the Teacher Appreciation Grant (TAG) program is established to provide millions of dollars directly to schools and thousands of dollars to Indiana's educators to attract, reward, and retain teachers who significantly impact student outcomes. Many details are available in the TAG Allocation and Guidance. School corporations and charter schools seeking TAG funds must complete the TAG Application by 5 p.m. ET on January 29, 2027. Please direct any questions to TAG@doe.in.gov.

REMINDER: Preferred Reading Screener Office Hours Recording and Upcoming Sessions
Those unable to attend the recent October Office Hours for Academic Recovery Reading Kindergarten Grade Six, the beginning of year Preferred Reading Screener (PRS) resources are now available. Access the recording (passcode: AkLT8rN.%) for the sessions. "ALS Tools and Resources Overview"

Review the additional materials shared during the meeting:

- Initial Grouping Suggestions
- Multi-Select Tool
- Benchmark Overview
- Benchmark Status
- Student-Level Data View

The next session, "Acadience Reading Progress Monitoring," will be held on Wednesday, November 16, from 11 a.m. to 12 p.m. ET. Additionally, the final session of the Acadience Kindergarten-Grade Six Reading: Data-Driven Literacy Instruction series, "Data and Mid-Year Readiness," is coming soon on Wednesday, December 9, from 11 a.m. to 12 p.m. ET. Register for the live session on the Learning Lab. Contact IDOE's Literacy Center with any questions.

Office of School Finance

REMINDER: Membership Conflict Petition Process
Please read this memo regarding the membership conflict petition process. Today, Friday, November 6, is the deadline for a school corporation or charter school to file a petition. Contact IDOE's Office of School Finance with any questions.

Office of Special Education, English Learning, and Migrant Education

NEW: Updated Spread the Word on Early Childhood Transition
The Spread the Word on Early Childhood Transition Presentation Templates have been updated to include instructions related to transition conferences and Part C exit. The Special Education agencies (LEAs) must document their attendance and participation in transition conferences. Following the October release, there will be a grace period for LEAs to train their staff on proper documentation. LEAs will fall noncompliant in April of 2027 and will include transition conferences beginning in January 2027. Questions about the upcoming requirements can be sent to specialeducation@doe.in.gov.

NEW: Last Call for the Special Education Directors Regional Roadshow
There are two opportunities remaining to join IDOE's Office of Special Education leadership team as they travel the state to share key updates, insights, and the latest news impacting LEAs during the 2026-2027 school year.

- Friday, November 6, at Greater Jasper Consolidated Schools
- Thursday, November 12, at Tippecanoe School Corporation

More information, including locations, dates, times, registration links, and topics can be found here. Please direct any questions about these convenings to specialassistance@doe.in.gov.

NEW: WIDA-facilitated Workshop - Actionable Practices for Centering Newcomers
IDOE's English Learning Team is hosting a virtual two-part workshop, facilitated by WIDA, titled *Actionable Practices for Centering Newcomers*. These sessions will provide K-12 educators with increased awareness and actionable ideas for classroom instruction with newcomer multilingual learners. Through guided activities and dialogue, educators will leave with ways to collaborate with colleagues and ensure access to meaningful, grade-level content in ways that are responsive to newcomers and their families' unique experiences. Part one will take place on Thursday, December 3, and part two will take place on Thursday, December 10. Both sessions will occur from 3:30 to 5 p.m. ET. Registration is required via this JotForm by Friday, November 20, and space is limited. Please contact specialeducation@doe.in.gov with questions.

REMINDER: English Learner (EL) Essentials Professional Learning Community (PLC) on Tuesday, November 10
Directors and leaders of EL programs are invited to join IDOE in an ongoing PLC during the 2026-2027 school year. This PLC provides a space to connect with colleagues across the state, access timely program information, and bring questions. The next session will be held on Tuesday, November 10, from 10 to 11 a.m. ET. Join the PLC Teams site to access the Zoom link into the 1:1 monitoring and compliance tools. Participants will explore key monitoring tools in the Monitoring EL service. The meeting link and additional details can be found on the IDOE EL Professional Development Opportunities Calendar. For questions, please contact IDOE's Office of English Learning and Multilingual Education.

REMINDER: Virtual WIDA Workshop - Exploring WIDA ACCESS for Kindergarten
IDOE's English Learning and Multilingual Education team is hosting a virtual workshop, facilitated by WIDA, titled *Exploring WIDA ACCESS for Kindergarten*. This workshop will support educators in understanding the WIDA ACCESS for Kindergarten assessment, including its purpose, design, and scoring. Participants will also explore how the insights from this assessment will provide helpful links, documentation, and resources to support instruction. The session will occur Thursday, November 17, from 3:30 to 5 p.m. ET. Registration via JotForm is required and limited to three individuals per district. For more information, view the Indiana EL Professional Development PPD Opportunities Calendar. Contact IDOE's Office of English Learning and Multilingual Education with questions.

Office of Title Grants and Support

REMINDER: Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) 2024 Updated Deadlines
IDOE's Office of Title Grants and Support has updated deadlines regarding an extension to the FFY 2024 period of allowability for Title II, IV, and IV. The updated encumbrance date for FFY 2024 is now September 30, 2027. If any FFY 2024 funds have not been encumbered to date, LEAs may continue to encumber funds and submit amendments through September 2027. If you have any questions regarding this extension, please contact your assigned federal grant specialist. Please note, the grant cycle for FFY 2026 Title I funds will continue on its existing schedule.

REMINDER: Learning Lab Technical Assistance (TA) Collection
Recent coffee chat and quarterly meeting recordings are now available through the Indiana Learning Lab's Federal Programs: Coffee Chats and Quarterly Meetings Collection. Please contact TitleI@doe.in.gov with any questions.

Office of Governor Mike Braun

The Braun Briefing
Click here to sign up for Governor Braun's weekly newsletter, "The Braun Briefing," featuring all of the latest announcements and actions being taken every week to improve education, affordability, jobs and wages, and public safety.

News from Our Partners

NEW FROM ND PACT (Formerly AP-TIP): Remote Teacher Collaboratives on Wednesday, November 11
Remote Teacher Collaboratives (RTCs) are live, discussion-based professional workshops where participants delve into high-impact practices that facilitate the instruction of subject-specific content and empower all students. All AP and dual credit teachers, as well as teachers who are preparing to teach the 2026-2027 RTCs for the first time are welcome. Registration for the Wednesday, November 11, session is now open and free for all participants. Registered teachers can opt to earn Professional Growth Plan (PGP) points for their participation. Learn more about RTCs, review the dates and topics by subject, and register online here. Contact Nikki Chase for additional assistance.

NEW FROM NORTH CENTRAL SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH AND EDUCATION (SARE): Sustainable Agriculture - Youth Educator Grant
Youth Educator Grant projects give youth educators opportunities to develop innovative ways to engage youth in learning about sustainable agriculture and to share what they learn with fellow educators. The Youth Educator program aims to fuel and share progress within sustainable agriculture education. Learn more and apply here. For more information contact ncrsare@umn.edu.

REMINDER FROM INDIANA CONNECTED EDUCATORS: Coach Con
Indiana Connected Educators will host their annual Coach Con on Monday, December 7, at the Center Grove Innovation Center in Greenwood. This free event invites innovators from across the state to network, share ideas, collaborate with peers, and attend sessions that are curated by attendees. Please complete the Coach Con registration form to register and contact the Indiana Connected Educators Board with any questions.

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Weekly Updates

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