

TRANSFORMING EDUCATION IN INDIANA



INDIANA
DEPARTMENT of
EDUCATION



IMPROVING QUALITY & RAISING ACADEMIC STANDARDS



Driving historic growth in literacy. Indiana's multi-year literacy investments are producing historic results for students. For the fifth consecutive year, more and more Hoosier students are mastering reading with nearly 9 out of 10 third grade students now reading. Key initiatives driving these results include:

- **Indiana Literacy Cadre:** Provides early elementary teachers with embedded instructional coaching and support aligned with science of reading practices.
 - Starting with 41 schools in 2022, **nearly 770 schools** are now being served through Cohort 5 of the cadre.
 - Schools that participated in the Literacy Cadre had a **2.3 percentage point increase** in students passing IREAD in 2026. This is **nearly 4x** that of non-Cadre schools.
- **Indiana Learns:** Provides \$1,000 grants towards learning support and tutoring services to students and families, regardless of their ability to pay.
 - Over **25,000 students** have enrolled, and over **280,000 hours** of tutoring have been provided.
 - An external study comparing students who participated in Indiana Learns to those who did not participate found **statistically significant results for students in ELA and math** proficiency.
- **Summer Learning Labs:** Provides free or low-cost, high-quality summer learning opportunities.
 - After just five weeks, students who attended the Summer Learning Labs in 2025 achieved **double-digit percentage point proficiency gains** in both reading and math.
- **IREAD at Second Grade:** Provides access to an early "On Track indicator" for parents/families and teachers to determine if students will master foundational reading skills by the end of third grade.
 - In 2026, **69% of second graders either Passed or are On-Track** to pass by the end of third grade.
 - With the help of this early indicator, over 61% of second graders who were At-Risk in 2025 **passed in 2026**.



Putting students at the center of accountability. Indiana unanimously approved the final K-12 accountability rule, which focuses on the future preparedness of each individual student. This student-centered model prioritizes academic proficiency for all students, while ensuring the range of **knowledge, skills, and experiences** that matter for future success are transparently reflected in a school's A-F letter grade.



Prioritizing essential, streamlined standards. To ensure classroom time is focused on what matters most, content experts, educators, and parents helped streamline Indiana Academic Standards by more than 25%.



Implementing Indiana's through-year assessment model. The redesigned ILEARN assessment includes three checkpoints and a shortened end-of-year assessment, giving educators timely data to support students throughout the year.

- After a pilot year, 2025-2026 marked the first year that all schools participated, administering over 3 million checkpoints that provided meaningful data on where students are and where they may need extra support.



Eliminating federal bureaucracy. Indiana's approved federal flexibility waiver is designed to reduce unnecessary administrative bureaucracy and empower schools to focus on student success.



Strengthening Civic Learning. In developing Indiana's Profile of a Graduate, the characteristics every graduate needs for future success, Hoosiers consistently elevated civic literacy. Indiana has worked to elevated civic literacy in a number of ways, including incorporating government/civics in all K-8 standards and adding a required sixth-grade civics course. The new diploma also ensures all students take U.S. History and U.S. Government as part of the basic requirements, and the new accountability model values strong civic understanding through assessments in social studies and government.

COMING SOON...Implementing a **statewide landscape analysis** to improve STEM education in Indiana and develop the STEM workforce pipeline needed for Indiana to thrive and launching a comprehensive exploration to identify how we can **best measure civic literacy** in both K-12 and higher education.

PREPARING STUDENTS FOR SUCCESS BEYOND HIGH SCHOOL

Helping more students reach graduation. Indiana's high school class of 2025 marks the **third consecutive year of improved graduation rates** and **sets a new state record** with nearly 92% of Indiana seniors graduating.

Maximizing the four years of high school. In December 2024, after more than a year of stakeholder feedback, the State Board of Education **unanimously approved a redesigned diploma structure**, beginning with the class of 2029.

- This includes **one base diploma** with minimum requirements and the opportunity for students to earn **readiness seals** aligned with their unique path: enrollment, employment, and enlistment and service.
- **Innovative partnerships** with higher education, business and industry, and the Indiana National Guard provide **guarantees for students** who earn Indiana's new honors plus readiness seals.
 - For example, all seven of our state's public colleges and universities and an increasing number of private institutions are **guaranteeing automatic acceptance** for any student earning the enrollment honors plus seal.
 - Schools will receive incentive funding when students graduate with **honors and honors plus seals**.

INCREASING K-12 FUNDING - PARENT CHOICE FOR THEIR CHILD'S NEEDS

Providing more high-quality learning options for Hoosier students and families. Since FY 2029, we've worked to increase K-12 education funding by approximately \$1.8 billion, supporting all school types, including traditional public, charter, and non-public schools.

- Implemented **Universal School Choice**, giving more Hoosier parents the opportunity to choose the school that best fits their child's needs.
 - Nearly 79,000 students and families received scholarships in fall 2025.
- Assumed leadership and operational management of the following:
 - **Indiana's Education Scholarship Account (ESA) program**, providing K-12 scholarships for students with disabilities and their siblings.
 - The **first-in-the-nation Career Scholarship Accounts (CSAs) program**, supporting credentials of value and quality work-based learning experiences, including modern youth apprenticeships.

BUILDING A STRONG TEACHER PIPELINE

Launching a comprehensive teacher supply and demand marketplace. This free tool tracks vacancies, matches teachers with open positions, and helps recruit new teachers.

- To date, the **majority of school corporations and charter schools are using** the full marketplace, giving the average district access to over 2,000 new candidates.

Strategically investing in high-need areas. I-SEAL (special education), I-TELL (English learner), and I-STEM (science, technology, engineering, and math) were created to address teacher shortages in high-need areas of expertise.

- This includes **streamlining coursework** and providing **financial assistance** to help current and future teachers earn full licensure.

ENSURING A GREATER RETURN ON INVESTMENT FOR COLLEGE STUDENTS & FAMILIES

Holding tuition and fees flat for students and families. In June 2025, all 15 Indiana public institutions, including main and regional campuses committed to a **two-year tuition freeze**.

- This is the first time since at least 2010 that more than two campuses have simultaneously held tuition flat.

Right-sizing degree pathways. Indiana completed a statewide review of over 1,000 low- or zero-enrollment degree programs to **better align with industry demand**. As part of this process, institutions were asked to consider and describe how each program cultivates civic responsibility and commitment to the core values of American society.

Growing the state's homegrown talent pipeline. As an early-adopter of federal Workforce Pell, Indiana unlocked new federal financial aid for **short-term, in-demand job training**, helping more Hoosiers gain job-ready skills and pursue high-quality, high-value short-term programs.

Focusing on outcomes. Indiana's updated Outcomes-Based Performance Funding (OBPF) formula aligns higher education funding to **meaningful student outcomes**, such as credential/degree completion, and alignment to market demand.