



Dr. Jenner's Weekly Update

Weekly Newsletter from the Indiana Department of Education

April 3, 2026

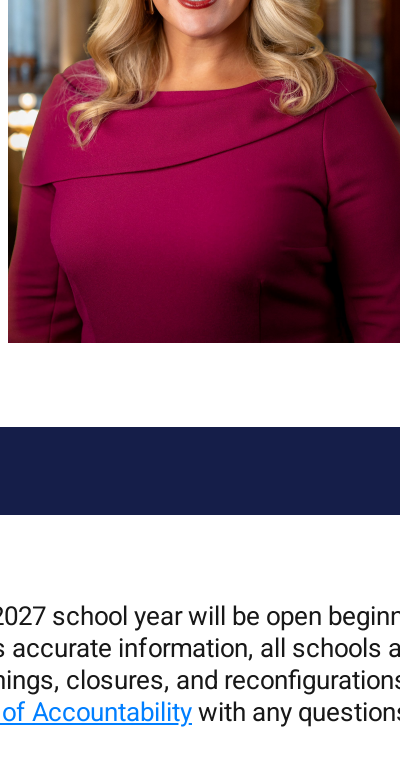
A Message from Dr. Katie Jenner

Across Indiana, some schools are closed today in observance of Good Friday, while others are still in session. As we enter this Easter weekend, I am reminded of how meaningful this season has always been for my family and me.

Probably like some of you, for my family, this weekend we spend some additional time together, take time to reflect, and also remember that even in our most difficult moments, there is always hope. I am so thankful for the work you lead daily to help our Indiana students overcome challenges and unlock a future that aligns with their unique hopes and dreams.

While my family celebrates Easter, there are a number of other religious celebrations during this time of year, each bringing its own traditions and ways of gathering. However you spend this weekend, whether it's going to church, preparing a special meal for those you love, or simply resting, I hope this weekend brings you joy...and maybe even a Reese's peanut butter egg or two!

Make the most of your time this weekend, and as always, thank you for all that you do for our Indiana students.



Office of Accountability

REMINDER: School and Corporation Profile Amendment Window

The school and corporation profile amendment submission window for the 2026-2027 school year will be open beginning Wednesday, April 1, through Monday, August 31. In order to ensure IDOE maintains accurate information, all schools and corporations must provide notice when changes are made that affect school openings, closures, and reconfigurations. Information on the submission process can be found [here](#). Contact IDOE's [Office of Accountability](#) with any questions.

Office of Assessment

NEW: ILEARN 3-8, ILEARN Biology End-of-Course Assessment (ECA), and ILEARN U.S. Government ECA Spring 2026 Testing Windows Open Monday, April 13

The ILEARN 3-8 Spring 2026 online testing window is Monday, April 13, through Friday, May 8. The ILEARN Biology and U.S. Government ECA Spring 2026 online testing window is Monday, April 13, through Friday, May 15. Paper-and-pencil testing windows close one week prior to the close of the online testing windows. As a reminder, participation in the ILEARN U.S. Government ECA is optional for students who have completed the high school U.S. government course and is only offered online. Students are required to participate in the ILEARN Biology ECA once upon completion of the high school biology course. View participation guidance here. Refer to the [ILEARN 2025-2026 Milestones](#) and [ILEARN Biology ECA Test Window Checklist](#) for an overview of deadlines. Contact IDOE's [Office of Student Assessment](#) with any questions.

NEW: I AM 3-8, 10 and I AM Biology ECA Testing Window Now Open

The I AM 3-8, 10 and I AM Biology ECA online and paper testing window is open now through Friday, May 8. As a reminder, participation in the I AM assessments is for students identified through a Case Conference Committee to participate based on [Indiana's Alternate Assessment Participation Criteria](#). Refer to the [I AM 2025-2026 Milestones](#) for an overview of deadlines. Contact IDOE's [Office of Student Assessment](#) with any questions.

UPDATE: Universal Mathematics Screener for Grades K-2 Frequently Asked Questions

Corporations and non-public schools can refer to the [2026-2027 Universal Mathematics Screener for Grades K-2 Frequently Asked Questions \(FAQ\)](#) for commonly asked questions about Indiana State Board of Education-approved mathematics screeners. Vendor resources and videos are included in the FAQ. The FAQ will continue to be updated as new information becomes available. Contact IDOE's [Office of Student Assessment](#) with any questions.

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

NEW: 2026-2027 K-12 Robotics Competition Grant Application

The [2026-2027 K-12 Robotics Competition Grant](#) is designed to support state-accredited schools and other eligible organizations in establishing or maintaining robotics competition programs designed to increase interest and improve skills in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) through participation in competitive robotics programs. Interested applicants are encouraged to attend a virtual informational session at 2 p.m. ET on Wednesday, April 15, to learn more about the grant and application process. Use this [link](#) to register. The grant will launch on Friday, April 17. Please note that all eligible schools and organizations must submit any 2026-2027 K-12 Robotics Competition Grant applications by 11:45 p.m. on Friday, May 15. Contact TLgrants@doe.in.gov with any questions.

NEW: Live Webinar Series Supporting Middle School Tiered System of Supports

IDOE's Office of Curriculum and Instruction will host a live webinar to support local implementation of mathematics tiered instruction with a focus on specific needs within grades 6-8 and the middle school setting. We will share scheduling tips and features to embed, share additional resources, discuss legislative updates regarding local implementation of tiered mathematics intervention plans and auto enrollment, and then open the floor for participant questions. The webinar will take place at 3 p.m. ET on Monday, April 13. Use this [link](#) to register. Contact IDOE's [Office of Curriculum and Instruction](#) with any questions.

REMINDER: 2026 Digital Learning Grant Application

The 2026 Digital Learning Grant application deadline is Monday, April 6. This opportunity is available to any Indiana school corporation or charter school. Review [this memo](#) for additional information and to access the application. Contact IDOE's [Digital Learning Team](#) with any questions.

REMINDER: Public Comment Window for K-12 Social Studies Standards and Content Connectors

Committees of K-12 and postsecondary social studies educators convened to recommend updates to the Indiana Academic Standards and Content Connectors for K-12 Social Studies. The draft standards and content connectors are now available for public comment through 11:45 p.m. ET on Friday, April 10. Stakeholders can access and provide feedback on the draft standards and content connectors via this [Jotform](#). This input will be used to refine standards, and final recommendations will be presented to the Indiana State Board of Education later this year. Contact IDOE's [Office of Curriculum and Instruction](#) with questions.

Office of Technology

NEW: 2026 Technology Plan Survey Now Open for Submissions

The 2026 Technology Plan Survey is now available to be completed by all public school corporations and charter schools. Optionally it may be completed by private schools if they wish to compare their environment to their peers. The survey will be open for submission through Friday, May 1, at 4 p.m. and can be completed [here](#). Please remember, completion of the annual technology plan survey is a requirement under Indiana Code 20-20-13-7 to remain eligible for grants from the David C. Ford Fund, as well as loans from the Common School Fund. Contact [Brad Hagg](#) with any questions.

Office of Educator Talent and Literacy Center

NEW: The Literacy Leadership Series Workshop, "More Than a Skill Match: The Instructional Hierarchy"

Join IDOE for the next Literacy Leadership Series workshop, "More Than a Skill match: The Instructional Hierarchy," from 2 to 2:30 p.m. ET on Tuesday, April 7, with Dr. Sarah Brown. The IDOE Literacy Leadership Series is a high-impact series featuring national reading science and systems design experts showcasing critical research, guidance, and resources to support evidence-based literacy instruction and comprehensive literacy support systems for improving student outcomes. The [entire series](#) is available for on-demand viewing in the Indiana Learning Lab, including a bonus session on [how to structure the 90-minute English/language arts block](#). Access the [series flyer](#) for more information regarding topics, dates, and registration. Contact the [Literacy Center](#) with any questions.

REMINDER: Recommendations Now Open for Distinguished Educators Recognition

IDOE is seeking confidential recommendations of educators representing the very best in Indiana. These emerging leaders must demonstrate leadership beyond the classroom and positively impact school culture and student achievement. Superintendents and principals may submit recommendations [here](#). Recommendations must be submitted by Friday, April 24. Contact IDOE's [Office of Educator Talent](#) with any questions.

Office of School Finance

REMINDER: Common School Loans

IDOE's Office of School Finance will accept applications for construction and technology common school loans from corporations, charter schools, and school corporation career and technical education schools through Monday, April 6. Petitions must be submitted to IDOE by this date to be considered. The application and other details can be found in the [Public School Finance Community in Moodle](#) under Common School Funds -- Spring. Contact IDOE's [Office of School Finance](#) with any questions.

Office of School Support & Transformation

UPDATE: Next Generation School Improvement Grant (Next Gen SIG)

The Next Generation School Improvement Grant application is now open. This competitive, multi-year, multi-million dollar grant requires a strong vision and strategic plan to innovate or transform the educational experience. All schools currently identified as CSI and TSI under Indiana's Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) plan are eligible. This [folder](#) includes additional grant details, a list of eligible schools, a PDF copy of the application, and the scoring rubric. Applications are due Friday, May 29. Contact [Georgia Watson](#) with questions.

REMINDER: Annual 1003 Flexibility Waivers

IDOE's Office of School Support and Transformation is [accepting applications](#) for 1003 Flexibility Waivers to support improved student outcomes, operational efficiency, and innovative learning. Details are available in this [memo](#) and [Flexibility Guide for Indiana's K-12 Schools](#). Applications are open on a rolling basis through Friday, April 24, and will be considered at SBOE meetings through July. Contact [Georgia Watson](#) with any questions.

Office of Student, School, and Family Engagement

NEW: Public School Transfer Deadlines

Indiana Code 20-26-11-32 requires public school corporations to report to the IDOE the date by which requests to transfer must be received by the school corporation. If your school corporation will be accepting out of district students for the 2026-2027 school year, please use this [link](#) to report your public school transfer information. Submission deadlines will be posted to IDOE's [Public School Transfers webpage](#). For questions, please contact IDOE's [State Attendance Officer](#).

REMINDER: Military Compact 101 Training

IDOE is offering a Compact 101 Training for school counselors and/or student service professionals on Wednesday, April 8, at 12 p.m. ET. This session highlights why it is especially critical to understand and support military-connected students whose families are not located near a military base. Without access to on-base resources, these students often rely heavily on their schools for stability, consistency, and knowledge of the Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunity for Military Children. Counselors who complete the training and accompanying quiz will receive a certificate of completion, which may be used for Purple Star School applications and/or PGP points. Click [here](#) for more information, and click [here](#) to register. Contact [Rebekah Frazer](#) with any questions.

Office of Special Education, English Learning, and Migrant Education

NEW: Update to Home Language Survey (HLS) Amendment Process

To streamline processes and improve efficiency, all HLS amendment requests must be submitted via [Jotform](#) effective Monday, March 30. Previously, amendments were submitted to IDOE via fax. Any amendments submitted via fax after this date may experience delays, as the fax inbox will no longer be monitored. Submission requirements, including the [HLS Amendment Form](#) and the original HLS, remain unchanged. Please contact IDOE's [Office of English Learning and Migrant Education](#) with questions.

NEW: English Learner (EL) Office Hours on Wednesday, April 8

Join the IDOE EL team for open office hours on Wednesday, April 8, from 10 to 11 a.m. ET. This session is designed as a true drop-in opportunity for educators and leaders to ask questions and receive support on any EL-related topics. Additional information and the link to join are available on the [Indiana EL Professional Development Opportunities Calendar](#). Contact IDOE's [Office of English Learning and Migrant Education](#) with questions.

NEW: Save the Date - Dual Language In-Person Networking Day

On Friday, May 1, IDOE will host a Dual Language Networking and Collaboration Day, offering dual language educators an opportunity to share ideas and engage with colleagues to build and sustain dual language programs. The event will be held in Indianapolis. Registration via [Jotform](#) is required and must be submitted by Monday, April 27. For more information, view the [Indiana EL Professional Development Opportunities Calendar](#). Contact IDOE's [Office of English Learning and Migrant Education](#) with questions.

NEW: Early Childhood Resources

The [Spread the Word: Part C to Part B Transition](#) has been updated with minor language updates to align with First Steps language. No changes to state policies or new information is included in the update. There is also a new resource available! Take the guesswork out of First Steps transition compliance with the new [Part C to Part B Transition Flowchart](#), now available on IDOE's [Special Education webpage](#) under Early Childhood. Simply answer one question at a time to reach the bottom and determine if a circumstance is compliant or non-compliant. Please email specialeducation@doe.in.gov with any questions.

UPDATE: Certificate of Multilingual Proficiency (CoMP) Participation Deadline Extended Through Friday, April 10

The Certificate of Multilingual Proficiency (CoMP), Indiana's Seal of Bilingualty, is awarded to seniors who demonstrate high levels of proficiency in English and another language. School corporations or nonpublic schools intending on participating in Indiana's CoMP must renew their registration annually. Those wishing to participate in the 2025-2026 school year must sign up using [this form](#) by Friday, April 10. This [current list of participants](#) shows which corporations or schools have already registered. For more information, see the [Certificate of Multilingual Proficiency webpage](#). Contact IDOE's [Office of English Learning and Migrant Education](#) with any questions.

UPDATE: EL Exit Criteria Training on Thursday, April 23

The IDOE EL team will host a training on the process to exit eligible students from EL status through an additional evidence review on Thursday, April 23, from 3 to 4 p.m. ET. This training will now be hosted via Microsoft Teams, and [registration](#) is required to receive the meeting link. This session will occur alongside the release of updated guidance. Additional information can be found on the [Indiana EL Professional Development Opportunities Calendar](#). Contact IDOE's [Office of English Learning and Migrant Education](#) with questions.

REMINDER: 2026 Special Education Director Outreach Opportunities

The IDOE Office of Special Education is offering multiple support opportunities for Indiana special education directors and administrators in 2026. Join the April sessions to learn more about evaluation reporting, the Assistive Technology Lending Library, and braille orders/returns.

- The [Directors Symposium](#) is held monthly to provide relevant policy and resource updates that support directors in strengthening compliance in their corporation's reporting.
- [Lead and Listen](#) sessions enable IDOE to address [submitted follow-up questions](#) regarding the Directors Symposium.
- [New Director Community Chats](#) are also held monthly for special education directors and administrators, new to their positions within the last three years, to ask questions and gain additional information following the Directors Symposium.

Specific information, including dates, times, and registration information, can be found [here](#). Please direct any questions about director outreach opportunities to spedassistance@doe.in.gov.

REMINDER: Special Education Leadership Opportunities

The Indiana Council of Administrators of Special Education (ICASE) is accepting [applications](#) for Cohort 7 of the Aspiring Special Education Leadership Institute (ASELI). This one-year program supports teachers, school psychologists, counselors, and principals who aspire to be special education administrators and are committed to a career in special education leadership. Cohort 7 includes both individual participants and five school-based teams made up of a principal and teacher leader.

The [CELL School Leadership Initiative \(CSLI\)](#) is a separate opportunity for principals, offering a \$5,000 stipend and a two-year commitment focused on strengthening special education school leadership. For questions on either of these opportunities, contact specialeducation@doe.in.gov.

REMINDER: Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) Part B Data Verification Office Hours

IDOE's Office of Special Education will hold office hours to support data verification. Click the links below to join.

- [Monday April 6, 9:30 to 10:30 a.m. ET](#)
- [Friday April 10, 1 to 2 p.m. ET](#)

REMINDER: IDEA Part B Annual State Application

All states applying for funding under IDEA Part B are required to allow public review and comment on the application and proposed budget. The application, developed by the U.S. Department of Education's Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP) includes a summary of assurances, certifications, and fund usage descriptions that Indiana will use to fulfill IDEA Part B requirements. The application on IDOE's [Special Education webpage](#). Feedback may be submitted here through Tuesday, April 21.

Upon OSEP's approval of Indiana's Part B application, the state will receive a federal grant award to implement necessary services for students with disabilities effective July 1, 2026, through September 30, 2028. Contact IDOE's [Office of Special Education Part B team](#) with any questions.

News From Our Partners

REMINDER FROM THE INDIANA NATURAL RESOURCES FOUNDATION: Discover the Outdoors Grants Now Open

Applications are now open through Thursday, April 30, for Discover the Outdoors grants, which provide up to \$500 to support field trips to Indiana State Parks. Grants can cover K-12 schools' transportation costs, program fees, and other applicable material costs. The grant application is available [here](#). Read schools' report about the impact of this grant by clicking [here](#). Contact [Amanda Anetz](#) with questions.



Weekly Updates

View previous weekly updates from Dr. Katie Jenner [here](#).

Stay Informed

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Dr. Jenner's Weekly Update from the Indiana Department of Education is distributed every Friday morning.

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