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Teacher Newsletter

Monthly Updates from the Indiana Department of Education

April 6, 2026

We know that real impact for students happens at the educator-level. In fact, we have seen time and again when teacher leaders are a catalyst for positive change in schools...whether that means adding student opportunities that did not previously exist...or creating connections with higher education and employers that may bring to light career possibilities that a student would not have otherwise considered or imagined. You (our teachers!) are our difference-makers for students, and this newsletter from the Indiana Department of Education (IDOE) is dedicated to elevating your work and providing new information and resources to help you do what you do best – and that’s serving Indiana’s students.

Indiana Literacy Center

NEW: Science of Reading Experts Explain Series

Join the Indiana Department of Education (IDOE) and The Reading League Indiana from noon to 1 p.m. ET on Tuesday, April 21, for the next live Experts Explain series with Dr. Margie Gillis, and her presentation, “Syntax.” In this session, participants will learn the importance of a function-based approach for teaching students the role that each grammatical building block plays in constructing a variety of sentences. This information will build on prior sessions by explaining the integral role that sentences play in students’ writing fluency. All sessions will be recorded and shared in the Indiana Learning Lab. See registration details [here](#). Contact IDOE’s [Literacy Center](#) with any questions.

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 3 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](#). Contact the [Literacy Center](#) with any questions.

REMINDER: Keys to Literacy No Cost Professional Development for Early Literacy Endorsement

IDOE’s Early Literacy Endorsement Professional Development is available to current eligible Indiana educators who hold a valid professional educator license and teach in a content area that involves literacy instruction for PK-5 students. Eligible licensed Indiana educators may participate, at no cost, in Keys to Literacy. Registration is available [here](#) for those who are eligible, but space is limited. Participants must complete the course(s) by 11:59 p.m. ET on Monday, June 1. Those who do not finish by this date will not be eligible to re-register for this free course option in the future. Contact the [Literacy Center](#) with any questions.

REMINDER: Early Literacy Professional Development Approval and Praxis Voucher Request

Educators who need to submit a request to verify completion of an approved 80 hours of professional development can continue to follow the process outlined [here](#). Educators requesting a one-time Praxis voucher can follow the same process, based on availability. Educators must schedule their exam within six months of receiving their voucher. Once the professional development has been approved, IDOE will issue a confirmation letter that will be used by the educator to complete the early literacy endorsement application in LVIS. An FAQ with additional information regarding the early literacy endorsement can be found [here](#), and we will continue to include additional questions and answers as they arise. Contact the [Literacy Center](#) with any questions.

Assessment Updates

NEW: Fall 2026 Early Learning Assessment System Opt-In – Indiana Kindergarten Readiness Assessment (IKRA) and ISPROUT

As part of Indiana’s system to measure and support kindergarten readiness, Indiana’s IKRA will be available to all public, charter, and non-public schools as an opt-in assessment for kindergarten students in fall 2026. The [IKRA opt-in window](#) is now open through Friday, May 15. The [ISPROUT opt-in window for students ages three through five](#) is also open for fall 2026. ISPROUT will continue to be required for children in special education, as well as children utilizing On My Way Pre-K funding. Administering ISPROUT is also required for all programs receiving High-Quality Curricular Materials Grant funding in 2025, however, any program serving children ages three through five is able to opt-in. If you participated in the IKRA or ISPROUT previously, you must still complete an opt-in form for 2026-2027. Contact IDOE’s [Office of Assessment](#) with any questions.

Additional News from Curriculum and Instruction

NEW: 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 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.

News from Our Partners

NEW FROM NEXTECH: Month of Artificial Intelligence (AI) Webinar Series

April is the Month of AI! Join Nextech throughout April for a series of webinars exploring AI, designed to deepen your knowledge and help you explore practical tools. These sessions are open to all educators and an hour of professional growth points (PGP) is awarded for each session. A schedule of webinars and registration links can be found [here](#). Contact stephanie@nextech.org with questions.



Additional Resources

- [Educator Licensing](#)
- [Educator Supply/Demand Marketplace](#)
- [Indiana Special Education Assisted Licensure Program \(I-SEAL\)](#)
- [Indiana Teachers of English Learners Licensure \(I-TELL\)](#)
- [Indiana STEM Educator Expansion Program \(I-STEM\)](#)
- [Indiana Learning Lab](#)
- [Indiana Literacy Cadre](#)
- [Teacher of the Year](#)

Weekly Updates

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

Stay Informed

Did you miss a message? View previous weekly emails [here](#).

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

This email was sent by: Indiana Department of Education
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