



# Indiana Department of Education

Dr. Katie Jenner, Secretary of Education

**April 29, 2025**

This monthly newsletter from the Indiana Department of Education (IDOE) Office of Special Education (OSE) includes resources, guidance, and support for special education directors, educators, and administrators who provide essential services that Indiana's students with disabilities need to learn and thrive.

## Fiscal

### IDEA Part B Proportionate Share Consultation Office Hours

IDOE's Equitable Services Ombudsman will host an office hours session for staff that support IDEA Part B proportionate share equitable services to non-public schools on [Monday, May 5, 9 to 10 a.m. ET](#). The session will share best practices with initial and ongoing consultation requirements for local education agencies (LEAs). Contact [ombudsman@doe.in.gov](mailto:ombudsman@doe.in.gov) with any questions.

### IDEA Part B Updated Allowable Costs for Proportionate Share

An updated Allowable Cost document for Proportionate Share has been posted to the IDOE Office of Special Education Moodle. This document is located in the Office of Special Education Community - Fiscal - [Part B Grants for Special Education](#) - Guidance Documents - IDEA Part B Allowable Cost Proportionate Share. Contact your fiscal specialist with any questions.

## Monitoring

### Early Childhood Special Education Collaborative

Be sure to sign up for the Early Childhood Special Education Collaborative to give the Office of Special Education feedback on resources, technical assistance, and more. While wrapping up for the school year, the interested parties group and subcommittees will meet regularly over the next year. [Sign up](#) for the mailing list to receive meeting invitations.

### NEW: Haitian-Creole Parent Survey Available

The Office of Special Education now offers the Parent Survey in Haitian-Creole. View the additional language [online](#) and download a printable copy from the Special Education [website](#). As a part of their reporting responsibilities, LEAs should ensure that the parent survey is available for all families to provide feedback on their experience with special education in Indiana.

## Indiana IEP

### Statewide IEP System Training Materials

The transition to PowerSchool Special Programs as the statewide IEP system is beginning. Training materials were released on April 1. Current Indiana IEP system users should receive an email notification with directions for accessing the online and on-demand trainings via Schoology and information about optional online live trainings. **This email will come from a PowerSchool address, so check your spam/junk folders if you do not receive it.**

There are two sets of training. The first will be for district-wide administrators. The second is for school users, which includes building administrators who currently use the system. **Users have been assigned to a group based on their LINK accounts and current Indiana IEP roles.** Live training begins in May for district-wide administrators and in August for school users. Note again that on-demand training materials are available for all now.

The current system, Indiana IEP, will remain the statewide IEP system until Friday, June 6. Further information about the transition period will be forthcoming. Please direct questions to [osedata@doe.in.gov](mailto:osedata@doe.in.gov)

### Good Cause Exemption Fillable Form

The Office of Special Education has developed a new [Good Cause Exemption \(GCE\) fillable form](#) for use during the transition from IIEP to Power School Special Programs. Download the form and open it with a PDF editor, complete the form for each child for whom a GCE meeting is held, and upload each response to PowerSchool Special Programs after the transition process. Contact [specialeducation@doe.in.gov](mailto:specialeducation@doe.in.gov) with any questions.

## Dispute Resolution

### Spread the Word: Written Notice After an IEP is Developed

The Dispute Resolution Team has worked with the Office of Special Education to create a Spread the Word document that provides the requirements for written notice after an IEP is developed, varying based on the mode of delivery. The document is in [Moodle](#) in the Office of Special Education Community.

## Technical Assistance and Professional Development

### Special Education Directors Symposium Updates

The [Special Education Directors Symposium](#) consists of a group of Indiana special education directors who share a common interest in improving outcomes for students with disabilities. IDOE meets at least once every month to share resources, guidance, and updates with the group. The resources and recordings of all sessions are available in the Special Education Community Moodle page under "Technical Assistance Resources." The symposium will meet again Tuesday, May 6, from 3 to 4:30 p.m. ET. New directors can [register here](#) for the symposium and direct any questions to [spedassistance@doe.in.gov](mailto:spedassistance@doe.in.gov).

### IEP TA Center Resources

- Request Professional Development: To request no-cost, in-district custom trainings for Indiana educators or other Professional Development focused on improving outcomes for students with disabilities, complete a [Request Form](#). For additional information, contact [Marcee Wilburn](#) from the [IEP TA Center](#).
- Upcoming No-Cost Trainings: The IEP TA Center has a variety of no-cost virtual workshops for Indiana educators. Review opportunities in the [training catalog](#) and [register](#) today. Contact Marcee Wilburn with any questions.

Facilitated IEP Meetings: A Facilitated IEP (FIEP) is an option available at the request of schools and parents where a trained, impartial Professional will support the IEP process during case conference committee meetings. This service is provided at no cost to parents or schools. To request an FIEP, please complete [this electronic form](#) along with the [IEP TA Center Print & Fax form](#). To learn more, click [here](#) or contact [Gail Ringwalt](#) from the IEP TA Center.

## Special Education Licensure, Recruitment, and Retention

### REMINDER: Keys to Literacy Completion

Educators have until Monday, June 30, to complete all asynchronous coursework through Keys to Literacy to maintain stipend eligibility. For help accessing your course, please see this [PDF](#) of directions and FAQs for [Teachable](#). Contact Keys to Literacy with any questions regarding your online course. If you have not yet enrolled in a Keys to Literacy course, you have until Thursday, May 15, to register in order to complete it by Monday, June 30, and maintain stipend eligibility. Click [here](#) to register. Additionally, if you have requested a Praxis voucher, the testing date can fall after June 30, 2025, but educators must schedule their exam by Monday, June 30. Contact IDOE's Literacy Center with questions.

### REMINDER: Nominations Now Open for the 2026 RISE Classified Staff Award

Districts, charters, and non-public schools across the state are encouraged to nominate up to two classified school employees for the [Recognizing Inspiring School Employees \(RISE\) Award](#). The RISE Award honors and promotes the excellence exhibited by classified school employees who provide exemplary service to students in pre-kindergarten through high school. The deadline to submit nominations is Monday, July 7, at 5 p.m. ET. Nominations can be submitted via [JotForm](#). Contact IDOE's [Office of Educator Talent](#) with any questions.

### REMINDER: 2026 Teacher of the Year Application is Now Available

The Indiana Teacher of the Year Program works to inspire, rejuvenate, and celebrate the teaching profession by recognizing outstanding teachers from across the state. Local schools are encouraged to participate in an annual selection process, and local Teacher(s) of the Year are encouraged to complete the state application process by Monday, July 7. More information on the 2026 Indiana Teacher of the Year selection process can be found [here](#). For more information, contact [intoy@doe.in.gov](mailto:intoy@doe.in.gov).

## Additional Updates, Resources, and Opportunities

### Updated: Deafblind Recreation and Leisure Factsheet

For children who are deafblind, recreation and leisure activities can reduce isolation and encourage independence. A newly updated factsheet, [recreation and leisure](#), describes strategies for promoting recreational activities and setting the stage for successful participation. Originally published in 2008, the revised factsheet has been updated and redesigned.

### Integrating CITES & MTSS Frameworks

The Center on Inclusive Technology and Education Systems (CITES) framework and multi-tiered system of supports (MTSS) have the potential to offer schools a comprehensive approach to both the design and implementation of inclusive technology systems. [This article](#) explores the potential of integrating the CITES and MTSS frameworks and how, by leveraging the two, schools can strengthen their inclusive technology systems and promote accessibility, equity, and improved learning outcomes.

### Tech inCITES Webinar Series!

CITES is excited to launch a new monthly webinar series! For our first inaugural episode of the Tech InCITES, we delved into the transformative power of artificial intelligence (AI) in inclusive educational technology. Did you miss it? No problem. All episodes will be archived on the [CITES website](#). [Register](#) once to sign up for all episodes.

### Easterseals Crossroads Open House

Join the ATLAS Project and other Easterseals teams on Wednesday, April 30, from 4 to 6 p.m. ET to celebrate Assistive Technology Awareness Day. Tour the adaptive lab and learn more about the INDATA Project, ATLAS Project, clinical services, digital literacy programs, the loan library, home modification services, services, and more. Visit the Easterseals Open House at 4740 Kingsway Drive, Indianapolis, IN 46205. Contact [Keri Bridges](#) with questions.

From the National Center on Accessible Digital Educational Materials and Instruction (NCADEMI): Coordinating with the NIMAC, What It Means and Why It's Important Webinar

Each year, coordinating with the National Instructional Materials Access Center (NIMAC) is referenced in the Part B application process. But what does this actually mean in practice? Although all 50 states have coordinated with the NIMAC for many years, the details of what coordination entails may not always be clearly defined at the administrative level. [Join NCADEMI to learn](#) how the NIMAC supports students and what the legal obligations are under IDEA 2004 for State Education Agencies (SEAs) and Local Education Agencies (LEAs) that choose to work with this free, Office of Special Education Programs-funded program. Find more information in [a policy brief for state and local special education leaders](#) on [NCADEMI's](#) website. For additional information, contact [info@ncademi.org](mailto:info@ncademi.org).

### IDOE & IN\*SOURCE Office Hours

The IDOE will join IN\*Source for the final two virtual office hours for this school year. No registration required. [Click here](#) to join all sessions. Stay tuned for next school year's schedule.

- Tuesday, May 27, noon ET: Early Childhood Transition

New Indiana Diploma Implementation Support, Final Course Eligibility  
As Indiana transitions to the [new high school diploma](#), IDOE has developed [this guidance](#) on eligible courses to support planning for the 2025-2026 school year. Contact IDOE's [Office of Student Pathways and Opportunities](#) with any questions.

### ICASE ASELI Cohort Six Application

The Indiana Council of Administrators of Special Education (ICASE) offers a one-year leadership development program, the Aspiring Special Education Leadership Institute (ASELI), that prepares educators for special education leadership roles to improve outcomes for all students. ASELI is currently [accepting applications for cohort six](#). ASELI is composed of teachers, school psychologists, counselors, and principals who aspire to be special education administrators and are committed to a career in special education leadership. ASELI is not available for currently licensed special education directors. Contact [ICASE](#) or the [Office of Special Education](#) with any questions.

### HANDS in Autism Resources

- HANDS Week-Long Summer Training Institute**

The training focuses on providing hands-on experience and coaching according to the HANDS in Autism® framework, curriculum, and process for a range of education personnel, community service providers, administrators, and other professionals working with individuals with autism and related disabilities in school and community settings. With the new training structure offered by HANDS in Autism®, you can select from meeting online once a week + independent study time (six days total) or schedule one single week of intensive training online and/or onsite (five full days).

**Daily from Monday, June 9, through Friday, June 13, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. ET at the HANDS Center;**

**Multiweek: Fridays, virtually from Friday, June 6, through Friday, July 11, (will meet on Wednesday, July 2, instead of Friday, July 4), 1 to 4 p.m. ET**

More info [here](#).

- Free Alternative to a Settings-Based Consultation: HANDS Developmental Disabilities and Autism ECHO Webinar Series and Recordings**

Each week, a topic is presented by a subject matter expert with follow-up Q&A then participants discuss a HIPAA/FERPA-protected case for about 45 minutes on Fridays from noon to 1:30 p.m. ET. If you (or someone on your staff) would like to present a case based on a student in one of your buildings, we'd love to have you join us! If you'd like to see other recordings, you can create a free IU Expand account and watch them at this [link](#). Register [here](#).

- Let's Talk Series**

Join us for a free interactive session focused on various topics for individuals with autism on the second Thursday of each month from noon to 1:30 p.m. ET. More info at this [link](#). Register [here](#)

- Free Make-It Take-It (MITI)**

This virtual workshop series is designed to educate participants about evidence-based strategies, learn how to use these strategies with individuals with ASD across settings, as well as to discuss and plan various materials tailored for the individual(s) you know. Each session will focus on a different area of interest.

Register [here](#).

- Next Steps Workshop (Tuesday, May 13, and Thursday, May 15)**

Next Steps™ is primarily designed for primary caregivers who have a child who has recently been diagnosed with autism spectrum disorder (ASD). However, this workshop is also beneficial for other caregivers, educational or therapy professionals, medical providers, and other adult family members.

Register for the two-day workshop [here](#):

- Group Programming Services**

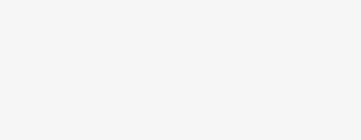
We are excited to share our Group Programming sessions! Individuals across the lifespan, of various ages and levels of disabilities, can participate by themselves or with a caregiver. We have scheduled sessions on both our core topics and additional subjects based on your feedback. Be sure to check out the upcoming sessions to find the ones that best meet your needs. Click [here](#) to Register

- Indiana Interagency Autism Coordinating Council (IIACC)**

The Council serves as a forum to increase public understanding and awareness of the state's collective priorities, activities, programs, policies, and research.

Meets quarterly; next meeting: Thursday, June 5, 9 to 11:30 a.m. ET

Register [here](#) for an upcoming meeting.



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