



# Indiana Department of Education

Dr. Katie Jenner, Secretary of Education

May 27, 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

### 2024-2025 Paraprofessional Training Grant Reimbursement Requests

The 2024-2025 Paraprofessional Training Grant will close on Monday, June 30. The Office of Special Education requests that you submit expense reimbursements through April 30, 2025, by Friday, May 30. Reimbursement requests should be submitted by email to [para@doe.in.gov](mailto:para@doe.in.gov) with "FY24-25 Para Grant Reimbursement" in the subject line.

### IDEA Part B Reimbursement Requests

Due to the significant unspent grant balances, IDOE's Office of Special Education has implemented a new fiscal monitoring for Part B funds. Reimbursement requests must be submitted within one month of expenses on the first or 15th of the month. Corporations, cooperatives, and inter-local groups can no longer keep reimbursement requests open until the end of the award period. If your school corporation is not current with your IDEA Part B reimbursements, we request that you submit expense reimbursements through April 30, 2025, by Friday, May 30. Submit the form by email to JaTio Skinner at [specialpartb@doe.in.gov](mailto:specialpartb@doe.in.gov) with "FY2024 or FY2025 reimbursement form" in the subject line.

### 2024-2025 RoboKind Grant Reimbursement Requests

The 2024-2025 RoboKind Grant will close on Monday, June 30. The Office of Special Education requests that you submit expense reimbursements through April 30, 2025, by Friday, May 30. Reimbursement requests should be submitted to [robokind@doe.in.gov](mailto:robokind@doe.in.gov) with "FY24-25 RoboKind Grant Reimbursement" in the subject line.

### Fiscal Year (FY) 2026 Special Education Grant Assurances Due Tuesday, July 1

FY 2026 Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) Part B Grant Assurances templates and instructions for using the Grant Management System are now available for completion and can be found in: Moodle>Fiscal>Part B Grants for Special Education>FY26 Grant Information>Assurances. To reserve the earliest reimbursement effective date for the FY 2026 Part B grant period, public school corporations, charter schools, and state schools must submit correctly completed Assurances for the FY 2026 Part B grants in the Grant Management System on or before Tuesday, July 1, 2025. Please contact [partbgrants@doe.in.gov](mailto:partbgrants@doe.in.gov) with any questions.

### 2026 General Education Provision Act (GEPA) Forms Due Tuesday, July 1

To comply with Section 427 of GEPA, local educational agencies (LEAs) requesting IDEA Part B funds must have an approved GEPA statement of compliance on file. If an LEA needs to update its GEPA section 427 form, a new form will need to be completed and uploaded to the IDOE's grant management system. The GEPA form can be found in Moodle>Fiscal>Part B Grants for Special Education>FY26 Grant Information>GEPA Section 427. All questions must be answered on the GEPA form. Contact IDOE's [partbgrants@doe.in.gov](mailto:partbgrants@doe.in.gov) with additional questions.

### Encumber All FY 2024 Part B Grant Funds by Tuesday, September 30

To ensure sufficient time for budget modification review and approval, submit all FY 2024 IDEA Part B grant budget modification requests by Monday, September 15. All FY 2024 Part B funds must be encumbered by Tuesday, September 30. The FY 2024 Part B grant reimbursement requests must be submitted to [specialpartb@doe.in.gov](mailto:specialpartb@doe.in.gov) by Monday, December 15. The form to request the FY 2024 Part B Grant Proportionate Share Release will become available on Tuesday, July 1. The due date for the next round of Part B monitoring reports is Thursday, July 31. All Part B grant forms and related guidance are available under Part B Grants for Special Education in the Office of Special Education Moodle Community's Fiscal section. Contact IDOE's Office of Special Education at [partbgrants@doe.in.gov](mailto:partbgrants@doe.in.gov) with any questions.

### REMINDER: Next Gen School Improvement Grant (SIG) Now Open

Next Gen SIG is a competitive grant for school transformation. Eligibility for this grant extends to all schools currently identified as Targeted Support and Improvement (TSI) and Comprehensive Support and Improvement (CSI) under Indiana's ESSA Plan. Interested school officials can read more about the grant program in the [Next Gen SIG memo](#). A list of eligible schools can be found [here](#). IDOE's Office of School Support and Transformation will be accepting applications through Friday, May 30, with finalists announced mid-summer. A PDF version of the application can be found [here](#). The scoring rubric for the application can be found [here](#). The online application can be found [here](#). Contact IDOE's [Office of School Support and Transformation](#) with any questions.

### REMINDER: School-Based Medicaid Administrative Claiming Office Hours

Fairbanks is Indiana's new vendor providing services for the School-Based Medicaid Administrative Claiming. IDOE's Office of Special Education is co-hosting office hours with Fairbanks, the new Indiana Medicaid administrative claims vendor. Please see the [memo](#).

### IndianaMAC participation agreements

The new IndianaMAC vendor, Fairbanks LLC, will be responsible for all School-Based Medicaid Administrative Claiming ("IndianaMAC") starting with the October-December 2025 (OD25) quarter. For your school corporation to continue participating in the IndianaMAC program, each school corporation must sign a new Participant Agreement (PA) before the OD25 quarter. The new agreement mirrors the previous agreement.

We encourage your school corporation to begin reviewing the sample agreement posted in [Moodle](#). Therefore, once your school corporation receives the agreement from Fairbanks, you will be in a position to execute and continue your participation in the IndianaMAC program.

If you have any questions or would like to discuss these programs, please feel free to contact either the Fairbanks Client Information Center at (877) 219-1343 or IDOE School Medicaid at [schoolmedicaid@doe.in.gov](mailto:schoolmedicaid@doe.in.gov).

## Monitoring

### Early Childhood Special Education Collaborative Wrap Up

Thank you to everyone who has engaged with the Early Childhood Special Education Collaborative across its first year. Your feedback is valued and is helping to sustain and improve compliance in the State of Indiana. Most subcommittees have completed their final meetings for the year. Join us for the 2025-2026 school year kickoff on Friday, July 25. [Sign up](#) for meeting invitations to stay connected with the early childhood special education team.

### Early Childhood Special Education Calendar

The Office of Special Education is pleased to share its upcoming early childhood special education events for 2025-2026. [View](#) the calendar to learn about upcoming opportunities to connect with the early childhood special education team. Upcoming meeting links for Community of Practice and Office Hour sessions will be shared in Dr. Jenner's Weekly Newsletter.

## Indiana IEP

### 504 and iMac Billing from PCG

All local educational agencies (LEAs) that have purchased 504 and Medicaid (iMac) billing services from PCG will continue to have access to those systems and services even after the IEP/LP/SP systems become inactive on Friday, June 6. The transition affecting IEP/LP/SP users does not impact the functionality or availability of the 504 and Medicaid billing platforms. LEAs utilizing these services can continue to operate as usual without interruption.

### Statewide IEP System Training Materials

The transition to PowerSchool Special Programs as the statewide IEP system has begun. Current Indiana IEP system users should have received 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 did 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 has begun for district-wide administrators and live training will start in August for school users. Note again that on-demand training materials are available for all now. If you need assistance with accessing training, please complete this [form](#).

### IEP System Transition Office Hour

The current system, Indiana IEP, will remain the statewide IEP system until Friday, June 6, after that time the Indiana IEP system will go dark. The Office of Special Education (OSE) will hold a special office hour session regarding Indiana IEP shutting down. At this office hour session OSE will provide go-dark reminders and answer any questions regarding this process and its implications for any summer activities and the migration of data to the new system. The session will be held on Wednesday, May 28, at 10 a.m. ET via Microsoft Teams at this [link](#). Please direct questions to [osedata@doe.in.gov](mailto:osedata@doe.in.gov).

### REMINDER: 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 PowerSchool 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.

## Technical Assistance and Professional Development

### Special Education Directors Symposium Resources Available

Resources from the 2024-2025 Special Education Directors Symposium are now available in the [Special Education Moodle Community](#) under "Technical Assistance Resources." Additional details regarding the 2025-2026 Special Education Directors Symposium will be forthcoming. Contact [spedassistance@doe.in.gov](mailto:spedassistance@doe.in.gov) with any questions.

### 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

### ParaPro Assessment Update—Public Comment Open

Educational Testing Service, the vendor for the ParaPro assessment used by Indiana school districts as an option for paraprofessionals, has updated the paraprofessional test. The current ParaPro test #1755 is being phased out over the next year, replaced by assessment #5757—ParaPathways. The ParaPathways assessment includes two subtests: reading/writing (subtest 5758) and math (subtest 5759). A multistate standard-setting study was conducted in March 2025; five states, represented by 10 panelists, participated. The recommended multistate passing score for subtest 5758 in reading/writing is 28 out of a possible 45 raw-score points. The scaled score associated with a raw score of 28 is 332 on a 310-350 scale. The recommended passing score for subtest 5759 in math is 20 out of a possible 30 raw-score points. The scaled score associated with a raw score of 20 is 334 on a 310-350 scale. From September 1, 2025, to August 31, 2026, districts can accept passage of either test (both tests will be "live" during this period). The ParaPathways assessment will replace the current ParaPro test as of September 1, 2026. The explanatory documents are linked [here](#). No DOE-issued license is based on passing ParaPro or ParaPathways. These tests are used as a local option for employing paraprofessionals. Public comments regarding this assessment may be submitted [here](#) until Friday, June 13, at noon ET.

### 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

### New Practice Guide: Supporting Communication Development

The new [Supporting Communication Development practice guide](#) from the National Center on Deafblindness details the essential components of instructional practices commonly used to expand and support a child's communication, including foundational strategies to plan for and engage in meaningful interactions. Please share this important new resource with practitioners and other adults who work with children who are deafblind.

### Speak Up: K-12 Universal Design for Learning and Assistive Technology

In partnership with the Center for Applied Special Technology (CAST), Project Tomorrow developed the [online CITES 2.0 survey](#). CAST will use the aggregated results to inform [CITES 2.0 work](#). The 10-question (5-minute) survey focuses on how K-12 school districts are implementing inclusive practices to support diverse learners. Questions focus on Universal Design for Learning (UDL) and Assistive Technology.

### ASL Refresher Course for K-12 Interpreters and Teachers of the Deaf

Tuesdays and Thursdays, June 3 to August 7, from 8 to 9:30 a.m. ET

This online course is designed to help professionals in K-12 settings enhance their ASL vocabulary, terminology, and classroom interpreting techniques. Led by an expert instructor, it includes hands-on practice and collaborative discussions to refine essential skills. Register [here](#). Early bird discount: 25% off with promo code EB25, ends May 31.

### Indiana Institute on Disability and Community Summer Training Hub (PGP opportunity)

Makes the most of your summer with the [Indiana Institute on Disability and Community's \(IIDC\) Summer Training Hub](#) — your go-to destination for flexible, self-paced professional development that fits your summer schedule.

Whether you're an educator prepping for fall or an administrator supporting your team's growth, the Summer Training Hub has you covered with a curated listing of online courses that align with your fall preparation needs.

- Flexible start dates
- Self-paced learning
- Low- or no-cost options
- Earn professional growth points

### 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;

Multitask: Fridays, virtually: Friday, June 6, to 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](#)

- 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.

### Sharing: Sign up for this OSE Newsletter

This is the IDOE Office of Special Education (OSE) monthly newsletter intended for school, district, co-op, and interlocal staff whose role necessitates receiving detailed information about special education monitoring, finance, data, etc. The OSE Newsletter is distributed on the fourth Monday of each month except for July. If you know someone who is interested in newly subscribing to the OSE Newsletter mailing list, please direct them to fill out this [form](#). Those already receiving this OSE Newsletter do not need to fill out the form. Previous newsletters can be found [here](#) and in [Moodle](#). If you have any questions, please reach out to [spedassistance@doe.in.gov](mailto:spedassistance@doe.in.gov).

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