



Indiana Department of Education

Dr. Katie Jenner, Secretary of Education

June 23, 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

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 here: [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 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 with additional questions.

Special Education Excess Cost (SEEC) - New Minimum Amount LEAs Required to Pay

Per Indiana Code 20-35-6-2, corporations are required to pay their share of expenditures before the state will fund excess costs. Any SEEC application submitted starting July 1, will be required to pay at minimum \$30,621.63, which is applied per Individualized Education Program (IEP). This amount is calculated using three times the current state average per pupil amount of \$10,207.21. Contact Sarah.Fields@doe.in.gov with any 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 specialiedpartb@doe.in.gov by Monday, December 15. The form to request the FY 2024 Part B Grant Proportionate Share Release will be available starting 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 partbgrants@doe.in.gov with any questions.

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 expense reimbursements are submitted by Monday, June 30, 2025. Reimbursement requests should be submitted by email to para@doe.in.gov with "FY24-25 Para Grant Reimbursement" in the subject line.

IDEA Part B Reimbursement Requests

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 incurring expenses on the 1st or 15th of the month. Corporations, cooperatives, and inter-locals cannot 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 May 31, 2025, by June 30, 2025. Submit the form by email to specialiedpartb@doe.in.gov with "FY2024 or FY2025 reimbursement form" in the subject line.

All Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) Part B Reimbursements

IDOE is currently compiling data for the Annual Comprehensive Financial Report (ACFR), which includes all IDEA Part B expenses. Schools must submit individual requests through June 30, 2025, and for July 1, 2025. Schools must submit separate reimbursement requests for June and July to specialiedpartb@doe.in.gov to avoid potential delay with your payment. Reimbursements are due on the first or 15th of the month. Contact IDOE's [Office of Special Education Part B Grants team](#) with any questions.

REQUIRED Part B Proportionate Share Office Hours

IDOE's Office of Special Education Part B fiscal team will be hosting mandatory office hours on [Thursday, June 26, at 11 a.m. ET](#) to assist LEAs that have proportionate share balances or are planning to complete a Proportionate Share Release. The Fiscal Year (FY) 2024 611 and 619 grants will close on Tuesday, September 30. This forum will answer questions and provide support for LEAs to expend funds for students with disabilities parentally placed in a non-public or homeschool setting. Contact IDOE's partbgrants@doe.in.gov with any questions.

FY 2024 Part B Grant Proportionate Share Release Request Forms Will Be Available Tuesday, July 1

The FY 2024 Part B 611 and 619 grant proportionate share release forms will be available on Tuesday, July 1, in the [Office of Special Education Moodle Community](#). Completed requests with supporting documentation must be submitted to IDOE's [Office of Special Education Part B Grants team](#) by Friday, August 29. Following the acceptance of the release form, a Part B grant budget modification request must be completed by Monday, September 15, to transfer funds across budget scopes. Download the release request form and instructions from the [Office of Special Education Moodle Community](#). Contact IDOE's [Office of Special Education](#) with questions.

2025-2026 School Year RoboKind Grant Opportunity

Through House Enrolled Act 1001 (2025), IDOE offers the RoboKind Grant opportunity for select corporations and schools to purchase robotic technology and provide professional development endorsed by the Council for Administrators of Special Education (CASE) to improve the social and behavioral skills of students with autism. RoboKind's programs are delivered by engaging virtual avatars. While the programs no longer require a physical robot, districts currently implementing the robot-led program may continue using their robots if they apply for a renewal. Existing partner districts will also receive access to the virtual avatar–led programs, in addition to their current robot-led implementations. RoboKind supports research-based curriculum across social skills and phonics. Information and the application can be found [here](#). For the budget template, click [here](#). Email the signed application and budget to robokind@doe.in.gov to submit your application. Contact robokind@doe.in.gov with additional questions.

IndianaMAC Participation Agreements—Coming Soon

For your school corporation to continue participating in the Indiana School-Based Medicaid Administrative Claiming Program (IndianaMAC), the corporation superintendent must sign a new Participant Agreement (PA) with the new IndianaMAC vendor, Fairbanks LLC, before September 1, 2025. The new PA mirrors the previous vendor's agreement. In the coming days, school corporation superintendents will receive an email from FAIRBANKSLLC via Adobe Acrobat Sign (sent from adobesign@adobesign.com). This email will contain a PDF version of the Participant Agreement, which can be signed electronically and returned immediately to Fairbanks LLC. Contact info@fairbanksllc.com or schoolmedicaid@doe.in.gov with additional questions

Monitoring

Changes to FSSA/IDOE Memorandum of Understanding

The Office of Special Education has renewed its Memorandum of Understanding with the Family and Social Services Administration's Bureau of Child Development Services (First Steps) effective June 30, 2025, to June 30, 2027. The field should review the following change to the Memorandum of Understanding regarding LEA responsibilities for the transition conference and the role of parental consent for the meeting:

Former: "With parental consent, the LEA agrees to be contacted by the service coordinator to coordinate and to be included in the transition meeting to discuss services available for families under Part B. If an LEA is unable to attend the meeting, arrangements must be made for its involvement through other means..."

New: "With parental consent for the SP OE (system point of entry) to hold a transition conference, the LEA agrees to be contacted by the service coordinator to coordinate and to be included in the transition conference to discuss services available for families under Part B. If an LEA is unable to attend the meeting, arrangements must be made for its involvement through other means..."

This change was made to directly align with federal regulatory requirements (34 CFR § 300.124 and 34 CFR § 303.209) by clarifying the roles of parental consent and First Steps/LEA responsibilities related to the transition conference. Please direct any questions regarding this change to osemonitoring@doe.in.gov.

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 helps 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 the 2025-2026 school year. [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

IDOE Special Programs Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

[IDOE Special Programs FAQ](#) provides the most accurate, up-to-date information regarding Indiana's transition from Indiana IEP (IIEP) to IDOE Special Programs. As the state prepares for the official go-live date on Friday, July 18, this document is intended to support educators, administrators, and LEA technical contacts by addressing common questions and clarifying key processes related to certification, data migration, student transfers, and system functionality. The information provided reflects current guidance and best practices to ensure a smooth transition and continued compliance with state and federal requirements.

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 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](#).

Dispute Resolution

OALP Administrative Law Judges (ALJs) as New IDEA Hearing Officers Update and Webinar

NOTICE: Pursuant to Indiana Code 20-35-14, due process hearing requests filed after June 30, 2025, will be directed to and processed by the Office of Administrative Law Proceedings (OALP). The OALP is a state agency that conducts administrative hearings for many state agencies, including IDOE. ALJs will oversee and conduct hearings filed on or after July 1, 2025.

OALP Administrative Law Judges (ALJs) as New IDEA Hearing Officers: What You Need to Know

Join OALP for a crucial online session about OALP's new role as ALJs for special education (IDEA) cases starting July 1, 2025.

What You'll Learn:

- The transition of OALP ALJs to hearing officers in IDEA due process hearings
- How does this change impact special education due process hearings
- OALP Clerk intake and processing
- Timeline and implementation details

Essential for: special education professionals, advocates, attorneys, and anyone involved in IDEA due process hearings.

Register now to stay informed about this change in Indiana special education proceedings. [Here](#) is the registration link for the event. Event details and links to additional details will be emailed to registered participants closer to the event date. Contact the [Office of Special Education](#) with any questions.

Questions and Answers on Serving Children with Disabilities Placed by their Parents in Non-Public Schools in Indiana

The Office of Special Education, in collaboration with Dispute Resolution and the ADAC, has released a [frequently asked questions \(FAQ\) document](#) to help address common questions regarding students with disabilities who have been parentally placed in non-public schools.

Technical Assistance and Professional Development

Special Education Directors Symposium Kick-Off

The Special Education Directors Symposium was established for special education directors and administrators to learn about relevant policies and resources directly from the Office of Special Education to support higher rates of compliance in their corporations reporting. The 2025-2026 school year Special Education Directors Symposium will kick off [virtually](#) on Thursday, August 14, from 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. ET. Topics for this month include Early Childhood Transitions and Special Programs to the DEX Validation Portal. 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 with any questions.

ICASE New Special Education Director Training—Registration Available

IDOE and the Indiana Council of Administrators of Special Education (ICASE) will host the 2025-2026 New Special Education Director Training on Friday, July 18, from 8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. ET at White Oak Professional Development Center in Avon. This training serves as an introduction to IDOE policies and resources for directors/administrators of special education in their first or second year, providing a unique networking and professional development opportunity for special education professionals. More information and registration can be found [here](#). Contact IDOE's [Office of Special Education](#) with any questions.

Special Educator Licensure, Recruitment and Recognition

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.

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.

Additional Updates, Resources, and Opportunities

ACADIENCE LEARNING: Register for Training

Acadience Learning is excited to have Acadience Reading K-6, be named the Preferred Universal Screenshot for Indiana Schools. We are partnering with the Indiana Department of Education to provide support to schools to help them onboard Acadience Reading K-6, including support for our online scoring and data management platform, Acadience Learning Online (ALO). Please visit our Indiana-specific [website](#) for information and updates. Click [here](#) for more information.

HANDS in Autism Resources

- 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)

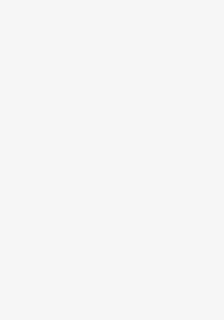
The Council serves as a forum to increase public understanding and awareness of the state's collective priorities, activities, programs, policies, and research.

Meets quarterly; next meeting: Thursday, September 4, 9 to 11:30 a.m. ET

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

Sharing: Sign up for this OSE Newsletter

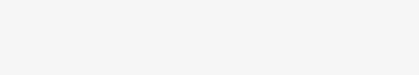
This is the IDOE Office of Special Education (OSE) monthly newsletter intended for school, district, co-op, and interlocal staff whose role necessitates receiving detailed information about special education monitoring, finance, data, etc. The OSE Newsletter is distributed on the fourth Monday of each 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.



Department News

6/4/2025 Indiana Education Leaders Kick Off Collaborative Process to Refocus School Accountability
5/28/2025 Indiana Department of Education Announces 2024-2025 STEM Certified Schools
4/2/2025 Governor Braun Announces New Partnerships Providing High School Students a Direct Path to Their Future

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