Dr. Jenner's Weekly Update Weekly Newsletter from the Indiana Department of Education

July 25, 2025 A Message from Dr. Katie Jenner

periods on Indiana's new K-12 accountability rule. While this is the official kick off, many Hoosiers have been sharing their feedback since June, and all of that will be taken into consideration as we move forward!

This week, we kicked off the first of two required public comment

future. essential to student success, as well as every student's unique pathway.

- **Legislative Updates NEW: 2025-2026 Required Training for School Employees** Following each legislative session, IDOE provides an updated list of state- and federally-required training for school employees.

The list for the upcoming 2025-2026 school year can be found here. This list does not include optional training or training

NEW: Clarification on Senate Enrolled Act (SEA) 482 Recently we have had an increased number of school leaders, parents, and other stakeholders reach out for clarity on the implications of SEA 482, a new law passed in 2025 regarding school attendance. The primary change as a result of SEA 482 is that schools will now report additional data regarding the type of excused

absence. Many schools already collect this data, which allows schools, educators, parents/families to work together to support

There is not an impact on students or families, as SEA 482 does not change who decides what counts as an excused or unexcused absence. Local school boards and district policies still make those decisions. An excused absence could include,

There are <u>no penalties for excused absences</u> in Indiana law. State law only requires intervention after 10 or more <u>unexcused</u>

Additional information, including a link to the application, can be found <u>here</u>. Applications are due on Tuesday, August 15. For

but is not limited to, illness verified by communication from parent/guardian, illness verified by communication from a healthcare provider, a family funeral, absences related to deployment and return for military-connected families, etc.

REMINDER: Pilot Opportunity for Schools Seeking to Maximize Efficiency and Innovation in Facilities Applications are now open for two innovative, three-year pilot programs designed to increase community collaboration and maximize the use of school facilities and transportation services. Per House Enrolled Act (HEA) 1515, up to three applicants will be selected by IDOE for each pilot program. Participation is voluntary, and any interested school is encouraged to apply.

REMINDER: School and Profile Amendment Window

additional information with schools as we know more.

required by a local school corporation or governing body.

the student, as well as triage attendance challenges, as needed.

absences. Any decision beyond this is determined locally.

more information, contact Lindsay Omlor.

Contact College Board with any questions.

Monday, August 18: Indianapolis

• Wednesday, August 20: <u>Evansville</u> • Thursday, August 21: Fort Wayne • Friday, August 22: Merrillville

• Tuesday, August 19: <u>Charlestown</u> & <u>Greenwood</u>

REMINDER: 2025 Legislative Guidance

implement newly-enacted legislation impacting K-12 education, which includes compiling guidance for schools and educators. This guidance is a product of robust cross-agency collaboration and partnership with countless stakeholders. This is an iterative document that will continue to be updated and improved in collaboration with educators. Office of Accountability

The school and corporation profile amendment submission window for the 2025-2026 school year is open from until Sunday, August 31. In order to ensure IDOE maintains accurate information, all schools and school corporations must provide notice when changes are made that affect school openings, closures, and reconfigurations. Information on the submission process

NEW: Register for Upcoming College Board SAT Suite of Assessments Implementation Workshops College Board and IDOE will host in-person SAT Suite of Assessments Implementation workshops for the 2025-2026 PSAT 8/9, PSAT/NMSQT, and SAT administrations. Corporation Test Coordinators (CTCs), School Test Coordinators (STCs), Services for Students with Disabilities (SSD) Coordinators, and additional testing staff are encouraged to register. In-person workshops will occur Monday, August 18, through Friday, August 22, from 9 to 11:30 a.m. local time. Register for the sessions below and

Following the close of each legislative session, the Indiana Department of Education (IDOE) immediately begins working to

can be found here. Contact IDOE's Office of School Accountability with any questions. Office of Assessment

REMINDER: 2025-2026 Formative (Interim) Assessment Grant Guidance The Indiana State Board of Education (SBOE) approved assessment programs and specific universal reading screeners for use with the 2025-2026 Formative (Interim) Assessment Grant. Schools can now access the approved assessments memo on the Formative (Interim) Assessment Grant DOE webpage. Funding will be prioritized for students in kindergarten - Grade 2 and grades nine through ten with remaining available funds for 10% of requested students per grade level for grades three through

eight. Eligible corporations, charter schools, and non-public schools may apply here for formative (interim) assessment grant funds for the 2025-2026 school year. Corporations must review the 2025-2026 Formative (Interim) Assessment Grant Guidance prior to submitting an application. Please note that for schools with an IREAD passing score below 70% must only request funds for Acadiance Reading, the approved preferred universal screener. All applications are due Friday, August 15. Public school corporations must complete this application at the district level. Charter schools and accredited non-public schools (including Choice schools and schools part of a diocese) must complete this application at the school level. Contact IDOE's

REMINDER: Annual Principal Survey Regarding Initial License Holders Closes Friday, August 1 Indiana Code 20-28-11.5-9 requires a principal at each school corporation, including both charter and virtual schools, to

complete an annual survey for any teacher employed in his/her building who was initially licensed in Indiana during the previous two years. The purpose of the survey is not to assess the individual teacher, but the quality of preparation provided by the

A virtual option of the <u>SAT Suite of Assessments Implementation Webinar</u> is available for those unable to attend in-person on Wednesday, September 3, from 10 to 11:30 a.m. ET. Contact IDOE's Office of Student Assessment with any questions.

Indiana educator preparation program the teacher completed for licensure. A survey is not required for those who completed an out-of-state program for initial licensure. The 2025 survey can be accessed here, select "Complete the Survey" and then enter the access code provided to you earlier this year. The survey will close on Friday, August 1. Contact Scott Bogan with any questions.

with any questions.

Office of Student Assessment with any questions.

Office of Educator Preparation

Office of Educator Talent and Literacy Center

webpage here. Contact IDOE's Literacy Center with any questions.

Office of Information Technology

please email <u>link@doe.in.gov</u>.

<u>link@doe.in.gov</u> with any questions.

set with what is in the SIS.

REMINDER: Weekly Office Hours Preferred Universal Screener Acadience Reading

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 will begin on Friday, August 1, for those who are eligible. Space is limited. Contact IDOE's 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 can continue to follow the process outlined here. Educators that are requesting a Praxis voucher have until Sunday, August 31, and based on availability, to follow the process. Educators must schedule their exam within six months of receiving their voucher. Contact IDOE's Literacy Center

REMINDER: Needed-Organization Leaders' Designation/Confirmation of Security Coordinators Access to most IDOE applications depend on the accurate role assignment within the LINK Portal. All superintendents and

If you are a new superintendent or the organization leader of a non-public school and need the first account configured,

The LINK Portal is able to recognize all public, charter, and accredited non-public schools' local Google G-Suite or Microsoft 365 accounts. IDOE configures the organization's leader as the first account, and then this person logs in to designate up to two

Security coordinators for all public, charter, and accredited non-public schools are responsible for ensuring their organization's key contacts for the upcoming school year are set. Required contacts are Superintendent, Principal, Special Education Director,

Exchange/LINK. When a person has an account in the local SIS, this is where the LINK roles should be set, according to the SIS instructions. Otherwise, when the staff classifications are resynched/resent to Data Exchange/LINK, they will replace any roles

The LINK Security Portal is now recognizing roles identified in both the prior and upcoming school years' databases. Roles for the new school year are to be entered prior to Monday, September 1. This data may be provided directly from a school's SIS. Staff not associated by this date will lose their access to IDOE systems. Prior year staff roles should not be removed. IDOE

Preferred option: Enter staff roles in the local student information system (SIS) per vendor's instructions and send

IDOE launched a new statewide platform for managing Individual Education Programs (IEPs) and Individual Learning Plans (ILPs) for the 2025-2026 school year on Friday, July 18. Developed in partnership with PowerSchool, IDOE Special Programs will replace the current IEP and ILP platform. Educators can access the new IDOE Special Programs system via the LINK portal by having the "Student Support Plans" role assigned to them for the upcoming school year. Ideally, these roles should be set within your local student information system. Ideally, these roles should be set within your local SIS. Those providing cooperative access will need their LINK Security Coordinators to enter this role via the LINK Security Portal for the new school year. A login

REMINDER: Report Student Enrollments As Soon As Possible for 2025-2026 School Year

On Tuesday, July 15, IDOE began showing data provided to DEX and is now running validations against the data.

The earlier schools have this information the better for school staff, parents, and students.

Reporting enrollment data as soon as possible will be newly important for the 2025-2026 school year due to new state laws around promotion to fourth grade and because access to the state's new IEP system depends on this information. It is no longer necessary to wait until the first day of the school calendar to begin sending enrollment (SSA) records to Data Exchange (DEX).

Allowing enrollment data as soon as possible will also assist with the new IEP/ILP system, which is now live.

Allowing enrollment data to flow as soon as possible will alert school staff if there are any concerns with a student being reported in fourth grade. (Data Exchange will process fourth grade enrollments according to new promotion rules related to IREAD proficiency.) Schools will have time to determine if the student without a passing IREAD score qualifies for a Good Cause Exemption (GCE) to the retention statute. The earlier this data is submitted, the more time schools will have to determine if the student must be retained in third grade, contact parents, make updates to student schedules, etc.

PowerSchool Special Programs (PSSP) will begin 'pulling' enrollment data from DEX which in turn will allow school staff to have access to student files within the special program's software. Staff access to an IEP/ILP is entirely dependent

Ask EdTech providers you are in contact with to ensure their products are up-to-date on the Edtech Index. A sample email

LINK roles, including the key contacts, are designed to be sent from the local Student Information System (SIS) to Data

REMINDER: Enter Roles for 2025-2026 School Year Prior to Monday, September 1

recommends roles be entered and managed in their local SIS; however, three options are available:

Add a staff role manually for the new school year via the Security Portal.

To avoid data loss, please refrain from using multiple methods for a staff member.

• Instructions for organization leaders on how to designate/update the security coordinators is found here.

security coordinators, who are responsible for overseeing the setup of roles for others in the organization. Contact

leaders of non-public schools should login to LINK and review/update who their Security Coordinators are.

New public and Choice schools setup of the LINK portal is found <u>here</u>.

Acadience Learning, Inc. will hold weekly office hours every Wednesday at 10:30 a.m. ET starting from Wednesday, July 30, through Wednesday, September 24. This is for school leaders and educators to support the implementation of the assessment as the state's preferred screener. Click <u>here</u> to join each week. More information can also be found on the Indiana Acadience

REMINDER: Keys to Literacy No Cost Professional Development for Early Literacy Endorsement IDOE Early Literacy Endorsement PD is available to current eligible Indiana educators who hold a valid professional educator

 Security Coordinator instructions can be found <u>here</u>. ICHAMP (Indiana Complaint, Hearings and Mediation Process) will utilize the following LINK key contacts: Superintendent and Special Education Director. It is essential that these two key contacts are reviewed by security coordinators and updated based on any necessary changes. A list of key contacts assigned may be found here.

educator data for the new school year to IDOE.

REMINDER: IEP/ILP System - IDOE Special Programs

on accurate enrollment records being submitted to IDOE.

included in your RFPs may be found at this link.

Office of School Finance

School Finance with any questions.

Finance with any questions.

NEW: School Summer School Reimbursement

NEW: Form 9 Data July - December 2025

REMINDER: Form 9 Data January through June 2025

navigate to the "Form 9" tile. Please contact form9@doe.in.gov with any questions.

Office of School Support and Transformation

REMINDER: Next Generation School Prioritized Expert Partners

Contact IDOE's Office of School Support and Transformation with any questions.

available upon completion. Contact Patrick McGinley with any questions.

Contact spedassistance@doe.in.gov with any questions.

Special Education with questions.

NEW: English Learner (EL) Exit Criteria Submission Deadline

REMINDER: 2025-2026 Special Education Director Outreach Opportunities

REMINDER: 2025-2026 School Year RoboKind Grant Opportunity

application. Contact robokind@doe.in.gov with additional questions.

REMINDER: IDEA Part B Reimbursement Requests

Office of Special Education's Part B grants team with any questions.

para@doe.in.gov with "FY24-25 Para Grant Reimbursement" in the subject line.

REMINDER: 2025-2026 Annual EL Directors Meetings Save the Dates

NEW: Transition to Kindergarten Professional Development Cohort

curriculum providers may contact IDOE's Office of Teaching and Learning with any questions.

NEW: Title IV and Indiana Construction Roundtable Foundation Partnership

REMINDER: Ed-Flex Waiver Annual Performance Report (APR)

REMINDER: FFY2025/FY2025 Pre-application Now Available

Artificial Intelligence in Schools Seminar on Friday, August 15

whichever is later). Contact titlei@doe.in.gov with any questions.

REMINDER: Ed-Flex Waiver Application #4

News From Our Partners

education. Learn more and register here.

Event – Work-Based Learning

Learning with questions. Learn more and register.

Thursday, August 7 Tuesday, August 19

questions.

the Final Four

September 8. Two information sessions will be held in August:

involved here. Contact Jamie Lies with any questions.

NEW FROM ACADIENCE READING: Getting Started in ALO

Click here to register. Contact IDOE's Literacy Center with any questions.

student passion with purpose and future opportunities. Learn more and register.

NEW from KEEP INDIANA LEARNING: SIOP Certification Workshop Series

contact TitleIV@doe.in.gov.

or FY2025 reimbursement form" in the subject line.

is also available that you can send to companies that work with your district.

Upload templates via Data Exchange.

guide for educators may be found here.

REMINDER: Designation of Organization's Key Contacts

and Chief Technology Officer. Additional contact descriptors can be found here.

REMINDER: EdTech Index Now Available for EdTech Procurement Process The EdTech Index is an initiative led by ISTE+ASCD in partnership with CoSN, Digital Promise, CAST, SETDA, 1EdTech, and InnovateEDU. The Index aggregates trusted third-party validations of digital products aligned to five important quality indicators: Safe, Evidence-Based, Inclusive, Usable, and Interoperable. Here are three ways the Edtech Index may be useful to you: Review the information in the EdTech Index to obtain critical insight into products you are evaluating. Consider including language about five quality indicators in your procurement processes. Sample language that may be

You are encouraged to explore the EdTech Index and consider how this resource might benefit your own procurement processes. If you have questions about how to do so, please contact Brad Hagg, Director of Educational Technology.

REMINDER: Reporting Virtual Students In order to facilitate the collection of data regarding who is providing the education for virtual students, three new fields are being added in Data Exchange. The information provided will assist in the calculation of the teacher compensation percentage for those schools that have virtual students. Please see this memo for more information. Contact IDOE's Office of School Finance with any questions.

Form 9 financial data for the period of January to June 2025 may now be submitted. The deadline for Form 9 submissions is Thursday, July 31. The Form 9 application can be accessed via the Link Portal. Once in the portal, the financial administrator will

The Office of School Support and Transformation is pleased to announce the Prioritized Expert Partners list for the Next Generation School Improvement Grant. Please see the memo to learn about these partners. These companies went through a rigorous evaluation process to qualify as a prioritized expert partner. The contact information for these partners is listed below.

The window to submit final 2025 summer school costs is now open. Instructions for submitting summer school costs can be found in this memo. The deadline for submitting 2025 summer school costs is Monday, September 15. Contact IDOE's Office of

Please read this memo regarding Form 9 accounting changes for July to December 2025. Contact IDOE's Office of School

Office of Special Education, English Learning, and Migrant Education **NEW: New Behavior Module** The IEP Technical Assistance (TA) Center recently added a new module, "Behavior Series: What Can I Do, I'm Not the Behavior Specialist, Functional Behavior Assessment, and Behavior Intervention Plans." To access the module, visit the IEP TA Center's

Moodle site, create a no-cost account, and add the course. A certificate reflecting Professional Growth Plan (PGP) points is

IDOE's EL team has provided guidance on the process to exit eligible students from EL status through an additional evidence review. The Exit Criteria for English Learners Guidance has been updated to apply to 2025 WIDA ACCESS and Alternate ACCESS results. Accompanying resources, such as training materials and Decision-Making Tool templates, can be found on IDOE's English Learning and Migrant Education webpage. Per the guidance, students provisionally determined proficient via an additional evidence review must be submitted to IDOE for approval prior to formally exiting. The window to submit these students closes on Friday, August 22. Contact IDOE's Office of English Learning and Migrant Education with any questions.

The Office of Special Education is offering multiple support opportunities for Indiana special education directors and

Directors Symposium. Specific information, including dates, times, and registration information can be found here.

<u>Listen</u> sessions will begin in August and allow the OSE director and specialists to answer <u>submitted follow-up questions</u>

REMINDER: Fiscal Year (FY) 2024 Part B Grant Proportionate Share Release Request Forms Are

The FY 2024 Part B 611 and 619 grant proportionate share release forms are now available, 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

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. Grant application deadline is Friday, August 15. Email the signed application and budget to robokind@doe.in.gov to submit your

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 incurring expenses on the first or 15th of the month. Corporations, cooperatives, and inter-locals 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 June 30, 2025, by July 31, 2025. Submit the form by email to specialedpartb@doe.in.gov with "FY2024

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 <u>specialedpartb@doe.in.gov</u> by Monday, December 15. The form to request the FY 2024 Part B Grant Proportionate Share Release form 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

The 2024-2025 Paraprofessional Training Grant closed on June 30, 2025. The Office of Special Education requests that expense reimbursements are submitted by Thursday, July 31. Reimbursement requests should be submitted by email to

IDOE's English Learning team will be hosting their Annual EL Directors Meetings virtually for the 2025-2026 school year, and the dates have been set. Day one will feature content for new EL directors and will take place on Thursday, August 7. Day two is geared toward all EL directors, both new and returning, and will take place on Thursday, August 14. Both days will have morning and afternoon sessions. More details will be forthcoming, and the meeting times and links can be found on the Indiana EL Professional Development Opportunities Calendar. Contact IDOE's Office of English Learning and Migrant Education with any

corporations, charter schools, and/or entities who meet the criteria in the grant guidance. Interested applicants are encouraged to view the Pre-Launch Meeting slides and session recording that explain the application process. The application can be found here. Completed applications are due by 11:45 p.m. ET on Friday, August 15. Contact <u>TLgrants@doe.in.gov</u> with any questions.

Schools are invited to participate in the Early Childhood Transitions Facilitation Cohort Plan pilot program. This program is an initiative led in collaboration by the Indiana Department of Education (IDOE), Family Social and Services Administration Office of Early Childhood and Out-of-School Learning (OECOSL), and the Indiana Head Start Collaboration Office (IHSCO) to enhance early childhood transitions into kindergarten across the state. Participation in this program is a unique opportunity for educators and administrators to receive access to tailored support, collaborate with key early learning partners, innovate new practices, and lead the way in improving outcomes for children and families statewide. In addition, participants may be eligible for a financial incentive for their time and effort. Participants will attend a total of two partner group meetings, with the first one scheduled in late August, and two tailored professional development workshops. Complete the School Interest Form to indicate your school or corporation's interest. For additional questions or details, please visit the expectations or FAQ document or

REMINDER: High-Quality Curricular Materials (HQCM) Guidance for Curriculum Providers -

IDOE will soon accept core curriculum materials aligned with the Next Level Programs of Study (NLPS) course 4565 Computing Foundations for a Digital Age, an approved course identified to fulfill a graduation requirement for students beginning with the 2029 cohort. Only submitted materials aligned with this specific NLPS course will be accepted. Application details and project timeline for IDOE's upcoming HQCM evaluation process are outlined in this memo. The required letter of intent JotForm will become active on Friday, August 1. Curricular materials approved during the upcoming review cycle will be recommended for inclusion on IDOE's HQCM Advisory List for K-12 STEM for use beginning with the 2026-2027 school year. Prospective

REMINDER: Participants Needed for Indiana's World Language Standards Revision Committees IDOE's Office of Teaching and Learning is recruiting educators and other stakeholders for review committees that will review the Indiana Academic Standards for World Language (Classical-Modern, East Asian, and Heritage Language Learners). Interested individuals should complete and submit this form by 11:45 p.m. ET on Tuesday, July 22, to be considered for this collaborative opportunity. IDOE will review all submissions and select participants based on many criteria (e.g., teaching experience, current role, student populations served) to help maximize representativeness of each committee. Contact the

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

REMINDER: 2024-2025 Paraprofessional Training Grant Reimbursement Requests

administrators through the 2025-2026 school year. The <u>Directors Symposium</u> will resume monthly to provide relevant policy and resource updates that guide directors toward higher rates of compliance in their corporation's reporting. Newly created Lead and

regarding the Directors Symposium. New Director Community Chats will also be established for special education directors and administrators, new to their positions within the last three years, to ask questions and gain additional information following the

Office of Teaching and Learning, Digital Learning, and Kindergarten Readiness NEW: 2025-2026 STEM Integration Grant Applications Due Friday, August 15 The 2025-2026 STEM Integration Grant is designed to expand access to high-quality instruction across K-12 schools and enhance student participation and achievement in STEM disciplines. This is a competitive grant open to Indiana school

contact the Office of Kindergarten Readiness.

Application Window Opens Soon

Office of Teaching and Learning with any questions.

questions.

ICRF's website.

REMINDER: July Coffee Chat

TitleIV@doe.in.gov for waiver #4.

REMINDER: Ed-Flex Waiver Applications

REMINDER: Guidance for ELA Academic Standards PD

questions.

Office of Title Grants and Support NEW: Public Comment for IDOE's FFY2023 (FY2024) Fiscal Waiver IDOE intends to apply for flexibility regarding the following to allow LEAs to more effectively encumber their FFY2023 federal funds: Title I-A/SIG, Title II-A, Title III-A, Title IV-A, Title V-B, and IDEA Part B Section 611. Specifically, IDOE is requesting the following requirement be waived: 1) Section 421(b) of the General Education Provisions Act (GEPA) to extend the period of availability of FFY2023 funds for programs in which your SEA participates under its approved consolidated State plan until September 30, 2026. Feedback will be accepted through this JotForm until 5 p.m. ET on Monday, August 18. Contact Frank Chiki with any questions.

The Title IV Team has partnered with Indiana Construction Roundtable Foundation (ICRF) to provide construction clubs for elementary and middle school students in fall 2025. The construction clubs provide six weeks of hands-on learning

opportunities related to the construction industry while exploring careers in the field. ICRF provides lesson plans and supplies to each participating club at no cost to the district. To learn more about bringing a construction club to your district, please visit

Join IDOE's Office of Title Grants and Support for monthly Coffee Chats! Coffee Chats are the last Thursday of the month at 10 a.m. ET. July's topic will cover Title I-IV Budget Applications. Please join us via Microsoft Teams on Thursday, July 31, and

The Ed-Flex waiver APR for all ed-flex waivers used in the 2024-2025 school year (FY25/FFY24) are due by Friday, August 1. Please note that an APR submission is required for continued use of future ed-flex waiver flexibilities. If multiple ed-flex waivers were used in the 2024-2025 school year, a separate APR must be submitted for each waiver. If you have questions regarding a

The Ed-Flex waiver application for waiver #2 is due Wednesday, July 30 for implementation or continued use of previously approved waivers in the 2025-2026 school year. As noted in the Ed-Flex FAQ, applications for waiver use in cohort 2 are required annually. Please note, a waiver #2 application for paraprofessional requirement flexibility is required if an LEA is using any hiring requirements that do not meet the three federally defined requirements: 1) Completed two years of study at an institution of higher education; or 2) Obtained an associate's (or higher) degree; or 3) Met a rigorous standard of quality through a formal State or local academic assessment (ParaPathways). For questions regarding waiver #2, please contact ahedden@doe.in.gov.

The FFY2025/FY2026 Pre-application is now available through the <u>Title Grants Pre-app Moodle</u>. All instructions, forms, and submission information may be found within the Moodle course. The Pre-application is due July 1, 2025 (please note, reimbursement eligibility begins July 1, 2025 or the date at which the Pre-application is submitted in reviewable format,

Due to the delay in receiving Title IV allocation amounts, the Ed-Flex waiver application for waiver #4 is now due Saturday, September 30, for the FFY25 Title IV budget application. As noted in the Ed-Flex FAQ, applications for waiver use in cohort 2 are required annually, or per federal fiscal year (FFY) for Title IV budget applications. For questions regarding waiver #4, please

ASSOCIATION OF PUBLIC SCHOOL SUPERINTENDENTS (IAPSS) AND INDIANA CTO COUNCIL:

leaders with the knowledge to navigate this rapidly evolving landscape and make informed decisions for the future of

Artificial Intelligence (AI) continues to transform education, opening new doors for teaching, learning, and administration. Stay ahead of the curve by exploring the latest AI advancements and their impact on schools. Equip yourself and your fellow school

NEW FROM INDIANA SCIENCE OLYMPIAD: 2025 Coaching Clinics & STEM Competition Resources Indiana educators are invited to participate in <u>Science Olympiad</u> programming and professional development for the <u>2025</u> season. Science Olympiad is a nationally recognized STEM competition for grades six through 12 that promotes hands-on learning and teamwork across 23 science, engineering, and technology events. Upcoming opportunities include coaching clinics—starting at the HASTI Mini-Conference in September—and year-round support to help schools start or strengthen a team. Coaches gain access to event guides, mentorship, and professional growth points. Perfect for science, STEM, and enrichment for educators looking to expand student engagement in high-impact STEM experiences. Learn more and get

Join Acadience Reading K-6 on Tuesday, July 28, at 10:30 a.m. ET for a webinar where we'll walk through the three different rostering options and the support available for each one in the ALO system. We'll also cover the basics of account management -such as setting testing windows, checking license usage, accessing available reports, and adding staff not included in your rosters. We'll wrap up by sharing resources for additional information and support, with time reserved at the end for questions.

NEW FROM THE SOUTHERN INDIANA EDUCATION SERVICE CENTER (SIEC): Community of Practice

Join SIEC on Wednesday, August 27, for a half-day event bringing together school leaders, employers, and workforce partners to strengthen and scale Work-Based Learning across Southern Indiana, Hear directly from IDOE and Ascend Indiana on the state's workforce vision, explore Al's role in the workplace, and discover bold new models like Profession-Based Learning with keynote speaker Corey Mohn from the CAPS Network. Breakout sessions will feature RAZ32 and COSMOS, highlighting "Beyond the Status Quo: Redesigning WBL for Collective Impact" through real strategies and success stories that connect

The Sheltered Instruction Observation Protocol® (SIOP®) is an innovative framework designed to enhance the teaching of content subjects such as science, history, and mathematics, specifically for English Language Learners and other students. This approach guides teachers in modifying their instructional language to ensure concepts and information are easily understood by all learners. Participate in this four-session workshop and achieve SIOP certification. Contact Keep Indiana

Lilly Endowment is accepting applications for its <u>Teacher Creativity Fellowship Program</u>. This program supports educators throughout Indiana by providing resources for them to take time for meaningful renewal. The Endowment believes that through new experiences, exploration, and reflection educators can generate renewed energy in their careers, innovative approaches to teaching and educational leadership, and thoughtful ways to encourage students' creative thinking. The Endowment expects to

award approximately 125 grants, each totaling up to \$15,000, in 2026. The application deadline is 6 p.m. ET on Monday,

To learn more or register for one of these sessions, visit the Lilly Endowment website. Contact Lilly Endowment staff with any

REMINDER FROM INDIANA SPORTS CORP: Calling All Third Grade Teachers - Register for Read to

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.

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REMINDER FROM THE LILLY ENDOWMENT: Renewal Grants for Indiana K-12 Educators

NEW FROM THE INDIANA SCHOOL BOARDS ASSOCIATION (ISBA) AND THE INDIANA

forward this link to necessary stakeholders within your district. Contact Titlel@doe.in.gov with any questions.

specific waiver, please contact jgrabowski@doe.in.gov for waiver #1, ahedden@doe.in.gov for waiver #2, and

Join us Thursday, July 31, at 3:30 p.m. as ELA content specialists from IDOE walk through a collection of guidance documents that have been developed to provide clarity for the Indiana Academic Standards in English/language arts and support the development of the ILEARN Through-Year assessment. Register here. Contact the Office of Teaching and Learning with any

It's time to get your class in the game! Get ready to spark a love of reading in your classroom with Read to the Final Four, a statewide literacy challenge celebrating the 2026 NCAA Men's Final Four® in Indianapolis. Third-grade classrooms across Indiana will log reading minutes through Beanstack, earn digital badges, and compete in a tournament-style bracket for exciting prizes and statewide recognition. It's a fun, engaging way to boost literacy while bringing the energy of March Madness into your school. Register your class in Beanstack before Friday, August 1, to get a head start! Register here.

South, Conference Room C at 10 a.m. Anyone may attend the public hearing in person or view the hearing and provide comments online. Summer/Fall 2025 – A second, refined draft of the accountability rule will be shared, which will begin a second round of public comment. Late 2025 – A final rule will be adopted in advance of the December 31, 2025 statutory deadline. Thank you to all who continue to share valuable feedback to help shape Indiana's future accountability model! In addition, IDOE's proposed federal flexibility waiver request was also posted for public comment this week. Through our proposed waiver, we are seeking flexibility from specific requirements of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) —with a continued focus on student progress and achievement. The overall goals of the waiver request are to: Reduce administrative burden for educators and school systems by streamlining bureaucratic compliance requirements; Empower local education leaders with greater flexibility to meet student needs; Promote innovation through competitive grant opportunities at the state level; and · Eliminate duplicative systems by establishing a single, unified school accountability model, rather than a separate federal model and state model. A draft of Indiana's proposed ESEA Flexibility Waiver request is available here. Hoosiers are encouraged to review the proposal and submit feedback via this Jotform by Monday, August 25. Following the public comment period, IDOE will finalize the waiver request and submit it to the U.S. Department of Education in September. If approved, the requested flexibilities will go into effect beginning with the 2026-2027 school year. Thank you again to the educators and many other stakeholders who have already provided valuable feedback on both of the drafts mentioned above. We are thankful for your input, support, and solutions as we work every day to make things better for students across the state.

From the U.S. Department of Education **NEW: Title IV-B Funding** The U.S. Department of Education (USED) released ESEA Title IV-B funding (21st Century Community Learning Centers) on Monday, July 21. IDOE is working with grantees to communicate additional information and specific next steps. We look forward to working together to finalize all federal grant agreements. Contact OSTProgram@doe.in.gov with any questions. REMINDER: Federal Title Grant Updates Earlier this month, USED shared final Title I, Part A allocation amounts for the 2025-2026 school year. Those allocation amounts

were shared with schools on Wednesday, July 9. Contact <u>TitleI@doe.in.gov</u> with any questions about Title I, Part A allocations. USED also shared that given the change in administrations, they continue to review the FY 2025 funding for the Title I-C, II-A, III-

A, IV-A grant program(s), and decisions have not yet been made concerning submissions and awards for this upcoming academic year. We are in frequent communication with USED and federal partners regarding this funding and will share

Friday, August 22 – A public hearing on the first draft will be held at the Indiana Government Center

Here's a detailed timeline of the first public comment window, as well as what's next in this process: and other stakeholders are encouraged to continue sharing their feedback on the first draft via this

will undoubtedly change along the way, our primary goal is to ensure that our future accountability model values all of the key characteristics