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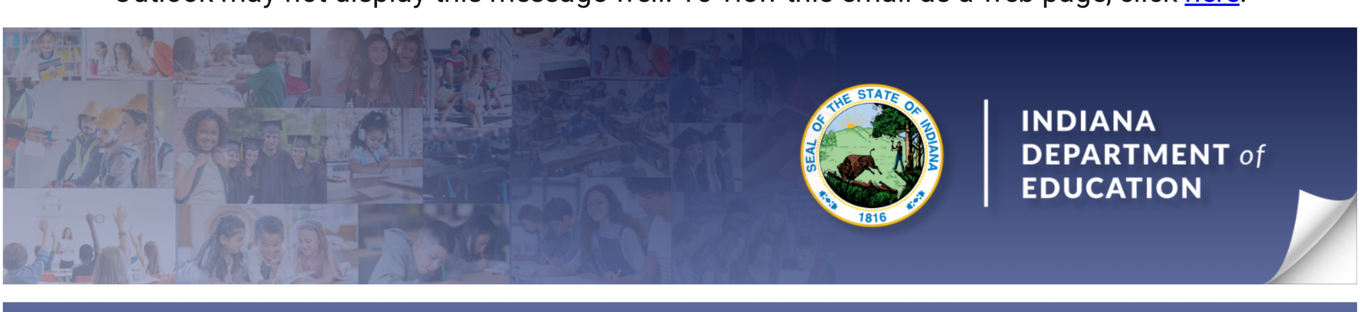
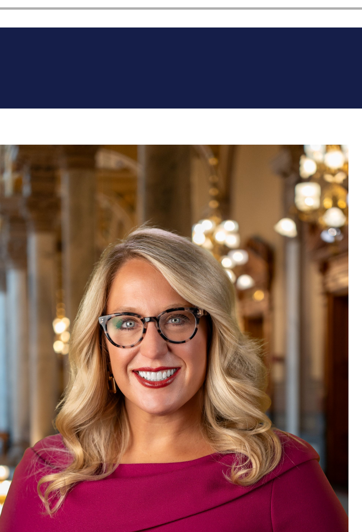


Dr. Jenner's Weekly Update

Weekly Newsletter from the Indiana Department of Education

July 3, 2025

A Message from Dr. Katie Jenner



Today, you are receiving this message a day early, as tomorrow we will celebrate Independence Day–America's birthday. And, this next year will be one of the most special in our lifetime, as we gear up for our country's 250th anniversary in 2026.

Over the next few days, I hope we all take the time to reflect on the freedoms and opportunities that make our nation so special, and the role that we all play in preserving those freedoms and opportunities for those who follow after us. As educators, we can do this each day by modeling for our students…the next generation of America's leaders…civic responsibility, servant leadership, and the ability to disagree better. That is both a huge responsibility and an honor.

Whether you're attending a local parade, a community fireworks display, a neighborhood barbeque, or, in my case, the annual Regatta boat race in Madison, I hope you enjoy the weekend and all that it signifies.

Thank you for the contributions you make towards the future of our students and our country, and have a Happy 4th of July!

Legislative Updates

NEW: Pilot Opportunity for Schools Seeking to Maximize Efficiency and Innovation in Facilities and Transportation

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. Additional information, including a link to the application, can be found here. Applications are due on Tuesday, August 15. For more information, contact Lindsay Omlor.

REMINDER: 2025 Legislative Guidance

Following the close of each legislative session, the Indiana Department of Education (IDOE) immediately begins working to 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 Educator Talent and Literacy Center

UPDATE: 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. Information about future opportunities with Keys to Literacy will be shared as it becomes available. Contact IDOE's Literacy Center with any questions.

REMINDER: Universal Screener and Dyslexia Programming Guidance 2025-2026

Universal screeners and level 1 assessments have been reviewed and the approved list is now available. The list can be found in Appendix A of the Universal Screener and Dyslexia Programming Guidance. Information on universal screening including the preferred screener has been provided. Please contact IDOE's Literacy Center with any questions.

REMINDER: Nominations for the 2026 RISE Classified Staff Award Due Monday, July 7

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 Due Monday, July 7

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.

Office of Information Technology

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

- Instructions for organization leaders on how to designate/update the security coordinators is found here.
- New public and Choice schools setup of the LINK portal is found here.
- If you are a new superintendent or the organization leader of a non-public school and need the first account configured, please email link@doe.in.gov.

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, who are responsible for overseeing the setup of roles for others in the organization. Contact link@doe.in.gov with any questions.

REMINDER: Designation of Organization's Key Contacts

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

LINK roles, including the key contacts, are designed to be sent from the local Student Information System (SIS) to Data 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 set with what is in the SIS.

- Security Coordinator instructions can be found here.
- 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.

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

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

- **Preferred option:** Enter staff roles in the local student information system (SIS) per vendor's instructions and send educator data for the new school year to IDOE.
- Add a staff role manually for the new school year via the Security Portal.
- Upload templates via Data Exchange.

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

REMINDER: IEP/ILP System - IDOE Special Programs

IDOE is launching a new statewide platform for managing Individual Education Programs (IEPs) and Individual Learning Plans (ILPs) for the 2025-2026 school year mid-July. Developed in partnership with PowerSchool, IDOE Special Programs will replace the current IEP and ILP platform. All schools will have access to IDOE Special Programs starting in late July.

Educators will 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 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 guide for educators may be found here.

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

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). IDOE will begin showing data that has been provided to DEX on Tuesday, July 15, and will begin running validations against the data.

- 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. The earlier schools have this information the better for school staff, parents, and students.
- Allowing enrollment data as soon as possible will also assist with the new IEP/ILP system, which is set to go live on Friday, July 18. 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 on accurate enrollment records being submitted to IDOE.

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 included in your RFPs may be found at this link.
- Ask EdTech providers you are in contact with to ensure their products are up-to-date on the Edtech Index. A sample email is also available that you can send to companies that work with your district.

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.

Office of School Finance

NEW: Form 9 Data

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

REMINDER: School Technology Advancement Account (STAA) Applications

School corporations may file an application for an STAA through Friday, July 11. The STAA application can be completed online and must be completed in one sitting. A sample application and certification page can be found in Moodle. Contact commonschoolfund@doe.in.gov with any questions.

Office of Special Education, English Learning, and Migrant Education

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

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 Special Education with any questions.

REMINDER: Early Childhood Community of Practice

Join the Office of Special Education's early childhood team for its next quarterly Community of Practice on Tuesday, July 22, at 11 a.m. ET. Because of summer holidays, this session will be less structured. Join the meeting and select a topic to discuss with colleagues from around the state with the aid of resources from the Office of Special Education. Contact IDOE's Office of Special Education with any questions.

REMINDER: 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 specialedpartb@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.

REMINDER: 2025-2026 School Year RoboKind Grant Opportunity

Through House Enrolled Act 1001 (2025), IDOE offers the RoboKind Grant opportunity for select corporations/schools to purchase robotic technology and provide professional development endorsed by the Council of Administrators of Special Education (CASE) to improve the social and behavioral skills for students with autism. RoboKind's programs are delivered by engaging virtual avatars. While the program no longer require a physical robot, districts currently implementing the robot-led program may continue using their robots if applying for a renewal, and existing partner districts will 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.

Office of Teaching and Learning, Digital Learning, and Kindergarten Readiness

REMINDER: Free Professional Learning Opportunity for Preschool to First Grade Administrators

Pre-K to first grade administrators are invited to join a new learning series to deepen their knowledge of early learning pedagogy and best practices related to supporting children and educators. The series includes participation in a professional learning network, an opportunity to design a concept for an implementation project, and facilitated discussions. Participants will engage in a variety of modes of learning, including asynchronous modules and virtual professional learning communities over three months, July to September, and are encouraged to register with a partner. There will be a final meeting at the end, in Indianapolis, to share projects. A full calendar of events is available here. Complete the form by Wednesday, July 16, to express interest. Contact IDOE's Office of Kindergarten Readiness with any questions.

Office of Title Grants and Support

NEW: Federal Title Grant Updates

Earlier this week, the U.S. Department of Education shared final Title I, Part A allocation amounts for the 2025-2026 school year. Those allocation amounts will be shared with schools on Wednesday, July 9. Please contact TitleI@doe.in.gov with any questions about Title I, Part A allocations.

The U.S. Department of Education also shared the following update regarding Title funds:

"Given the change in Administrations, the Department is reviewing the FY 2025 funding for the [Title I-C, II-A, III-A, IV-A, IV-B] grant program(s), and decisions have not yet been made concerning submissions and awards for this upcoming academic year. Accordingly, the Department will not be issuing Grant Award Notifications obligating funds for these programs on July 1 prior to completing that review. The Department remains committed to ensuring taxpayer resources are spent in accordance with the President's priorities and the Department's statutory responsibilities."

Additional information will be shared with schools as we know more about these allocations.

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

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 specific waiver, please contact jgrabowski@doe.in.gov for waiver #1, ahedden@doe.in.gov for waiver #2, and TitleIV@doe.in.gov for waiver #4.

UPDATE: FFY2025/FY2025 Pre-application Now Available

The FFY2025/FY2026 Pre-application is now available through the Title Grants Pre-app Moodle. 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, whichever is later). Contact titlei@doe.in.gov with any questions.

REMINDER: Ed-Flex Waiver Application #4

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 contact TitleIV@doe.in.gov.

REMINDER: Indiana Program Administrators Leadership Institute (INPALI) Applications Now Open

INPALI is a no-cost three-year program that offers additional support in partnership between INPALI mentors and IDOE's federal grants team. The program includes a one-day, in-person orientation along with quarterly virtual check-in meetings and monthly communication with IDOE staff. This year's orientation will be on Monday, September 22. Applications are available via the Jotform for new mentees. An assurance form, signed by both the applicant and the applicant's supervisor, is required for the application. Both the assurance form and a current resume are required to be uploaded via the Jotform when applying. Contact INPALI Program Coordinators, Gabriela Escoto or Amanda Hedden with any questions

REMINDER: Ed-Flex Waiver Application #2

The Ed-Flex waiver applications 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). Contact Amanda Hedden with questions regarding waiver #2.

Indiana Commission for Higher Education

REMINDER: College GO! 2025 Dates Released

The Commission is excited to share its dates set for College GO! 2025! This year's festivities kick off on Friday, September 19, with #WhyApply Day. Monday, September 22, through Friday, September 26, will be College Application Week. Additional information on participating colleges and materials is forthcoming.

News From Our Partners

NEW FROM INDIANA SPORTS CORP: Calling All Third Grade Teachers - Register for Read to the Final Four

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.

REMINDER FROM THE INDIANA DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY (IDHS): Office of School Safety

As of July 1, 2025, the Office of School Safety is now housed under IDHS. Since 2014, IDHS has been administering the school safety grants with the Secured School Safety Board, and now they will be together under one roof. IDHS is home to the Office of Emergency Medical Services, the State Fire Marshal, Building Safety, and Emergency Management and Preparedness. Our mission is to proactively ensure the physical and mental well-being of all people on school property. We are grateful for the impactful work IDOE has made in ensuring kids come home safe, and look forward to continuing to partner with educators, parents, first responders, and other state agencies. For more information, visit https://www.in.gov/dhs/, or contact schoolsafety@dhs.in.gov.

REMINDER FROM ACADIENCE LEARNING: Register for Training

Acadience Learning is excited to have Acadience Reading K-6, be named the Preferred Universal Screener 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.

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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