

Weekly Newsletter from the Indiana Department of Education August 15, 2025

A Message from Dr. Katie Jenner

Now that these historic results are public, I want to re-emphasize my appreciation for you and the difference you are making. Please feel welcome to take a look at the short video below...a huge thank you to YOU!

Earlier this week, before IREAD results were officially shared at the State Board of Education meeting, I sent a

message to our teachers and principals thanking them for all they do to positively impact students.

As many of you now know, we saw unprecedented results on IREAD this year. This includes: A nearly 5 percentage point increase in literacy rates—the largest in Indiana history; Approximately 6,000 additional third grade students reading, compared to 2024 (a total of 73,500 third grade

students reading statewide); Literacy rates increasing for all student populations for the first time ever; and Over one-third of Indiana elementary schools hitting the state's 95% reading goal! To put Indiana's nearly 5 percentage point increase in third grade reading proficiency into perspective, for states across our country, increasing proficiency rates even one to two percentage points in one school year can be challenging, even with significant investment and effort. In Indiana, the previous record for the largest year-over-year increase was set in 2024, and was less than 1 percentage point. Some of you reading this may be middle or high school teachers or parents, and others may have an elementary classroom of students who contributed to the significant literacy gains we see today....Regardless of the grade you teach or your role in the lives of Hoosier students, you are each making a difference, and you know better than anyone that these are more than just numbers...these are individual students' lives that have been impacted for the better.

When Indiana committed to strengthening early literacy, we knew it would require all of us, aligned and rowing in the same direction. At the center of this momentum are our educators in every corner of the state, including our teachers,

instructional coaches, school leaders, support staff, and many others—who are all in on working together to help more

students become confident readers. There is no doubt there are some days that are easier than others, but every single day, the time you give to teach, support, and encourage our students, deeply matters and makes a difference. Over the coming weeks and months as we continue to celebrate this unprecedented growth, I hope you remember and take pride in the fact that your work made this possible.

We know that there is much more to do ahead and more positive impact we can make...one day at a time. Right now, this milestone belongs to you...so, a huge congratulations to our Indiana schools and educators, and as always, thank you for all that you do for our Indiana students!

Recently we have had an increased number of school leaders, parents, and other stakeholders reach out for clarity on the

The primary change as a result of SEA 482 is that **schools** will now report additional data regarding the type of excused

There is not an impact on students or families, as SEA 482 does not change who decides what counts as an excused or

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

Legislative Updates

more information, contact Lindsay Omlor.

REMINDER: Clarification on Senate Enrolled Act (SEA) 482

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

implications of SEA 482, a new law passed in 2025 regarding school attendance.

REMINDER: Third-Party Accreditation Petition Window is Open

REMINDER: School and Profile Amendment Window

unexcused absence. Local school boards and district policies still make those decisions. An excused absence could include, 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. There are <u>no penalties for excused absences</u> in Indiana law. State law only requires intervention after 10 or more <u>unexcused</u> absences. Any decision beyond this is determined locally. 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. Additional information, including a link to the application, can be found here. Applications are due today, Friday, August 15. For

Office of Accountability **NEW: Instructional Time Waivers** IDOE's guidance regarding instructional time waivers for schools and corporations can be found here. Contact IDOE's Office of Accountability with any questions.

intent, the Department will provide the accrediting organization seeking recognition with the petition outline and required assurances form. The accrediting organization seeking recognition has until November 30 to compile and submit their petition for recognition during the 2026-2027 school year. The accrediting organization will not be considered for Board recognition if the organization fails to submit its notice of intent or petition by the stated deadlines. Pursuant to statute, IDOE will provide a recommendation to SBOE within six months of receipt of a petition. This is also a reminder for third-party organizations that are already recognized by SBOE to resubmit a petition for approval for any changes to their accreditation processes that were not initially approved by the Board (for example; provisional or foundational accreditation). Additional information and the third-party notice of intent and third-party accreditation petition can be found on IDOE's accreditation website. Contact IDOE's Office of Accountability with any questions.

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

Accrediting organizations for kindergarten through grade 12 schools that are interested in being recognized by the Indiana State Board of Education (SBOE) may submit a notice of intent between August 1 and September 1. Upon receipt of the notice of

can be found here. Contact IDOE's Office of School Accountability with any questions. Office of Assessment NEW: IREAD-3 Spring and Summer Retest 2025 Results Public Release Final aggregate results for the 2025 IREAD-3 Spring and Summer Retest administrations were presented to the State Board of Education (SBOE) on Wednesday, August 13. The aggregate results include state-level performance, student group performance, and changes in performance from last school year and can be viewed on IDOE'S website. View the SBOE

recording and obtain supporting materials. Corporations and schools can review student performance via the new IREAD Cohort

Performance Report. Contact IDOE's Office of Student Assessment with any questions. **NEW: ILEARN Mathematics Reference Sheet Reminder** As a reminder, students in grades 4-8 will receive an embedded Mathematics Reference Sheet on all ILEARN Mathematics assessments. The reference sheet will be embedded in the Test Delivery System's (TDS's) tools. Schools do not need to provide this reference sheet directly to students, unless they are testing on paper; however, schools may provide a paper copy of the reference sheet to students testing online if desired. If schools are providing students a paper copy, students must only receive the reference sheet for their grade level. A Spanish version of the ILEARN Mathematics Reference Sheet can be found here. Contact IDOE's Office of Student Assessment with any questions.

Example grade-level learning progressions are now available on the Indiana Assessment Framework: Mathematics for grades 3-8. These year-long math progressions provide a sample pathway for sequencing instruction that reflects the structure and intent of the grade-level mathematics standards. The sequence aligns with the domains and overall concepts outlined in the standards while incorporating the timing of ILEARN Checkpoints to support targeted instruction and assessment readiness. Educators may choose to use this possible approach as a guide for long-range planning, to inform assessment timing, or to identify opportunities for intervention and enrichment. This sample is meant to support thoughtful, standards-aligned decision-

NEW: Example Grade-Level Learning Progressions for Mathematics

NEW: 2026 Indiana Teacher of the Year Finalists Announced

INTOY program, contact IDOE's Office of Educator Talent.

Literacy Center with any questions.

IDOE's <u>Literacy Center</u> with any questions.

Office of Information Technology

with any questions.

members.

please email link@doe.in.gov.

link@doe.in.gov with any questions.

set with what is in the SIS.

making throughout the school year. Contact IDOE's Office of Student Assessment with any questions. **REMINDER: ILEARN Summary Writing Rubrics** The ILEARN Summary Writing Rubrics for Literary and Informational Text will be used to determine proficiency on hand-scored, text entry item types for standards that assess summarizing literary or informational texts in grades four through eight. Impacted standards are included in each rubric with links to item specifications for more information. Contact IDOE's Office of Student Assessment with any questions. REMINDER: Research Writing Rubric for ILEARN ELA Performance Tasks The collection of Writing Rubrics for ILEARN Performance Tasks, housed in the Indiana Learning Lab, has been updated to

include a research writing rubric. The research writing rubric will be used to score student responses in grades three through eight for Part 1 of the ILEARN ELA Summative Performance Task. Educators will find the rubric aligned to grade-level research writing standards with an emphasis on students' abilities to gather, evaluate, and synthesize information from multiple sources in order to develop well-supported written responses. Contact IDOE's Office of Student Assessment with any questions.

REMINDER: 2025-2026 Formative (Interim) Assessment Grant Application Due Today, Friday, August 15 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. All applications are due by 11:59 p.m. today, 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 Office of Student Assessment with any questions. Office of Educator Talent and Literacy Center

IDOE is excited to announce the 2026 INTOY Finalists. Details on the finalists can be found here. For more information on the

Acadience Learning, Inc. will hold weekly office hours every Wednesday at 10:30 a.m. ET 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 here to join each week. More information can also be found on the Indiana Acadience webpage here. Contact IDOE's

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 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 is now open for those who are eligible. Space is limited. Contact

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: Weekly Office Hours Preferred Universal Screener Acadience Reading

NEW: Take Advantage of No-Cost Cybersecurity Services Available Through IOT/SLCGP to Improve Cybersecurity Posture The Indiana Office of Technology (IOT) is providing no-cost services to all public schools in Indiana. These include: CrowdStrike Falcon Complete Licenses for all staff workstations and servers: provides a software that is monitored by a 24/7 secure operations center (SOC), automatically detects/blocks cyber threats, and allows cyber professionals to respond and alert your IT team, even at 2 a.m. on a Saturday. KnowBe4 for all staff workstations: provides access to conduct phishing exercises with staff and offers video training. posters, and documents. <u>Udemy for all IT and central office employees</u>: provides access to a comprehensive training library including cybersecurity, IT certification, leadership development, office suite, and project management courses.

Cybersecurity assessments: provide a no-cost cybersecurity assessment of your schools cybersecurity posture, including a final report and recommendations for next steps that can be shared with school leadership/school board

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

Superintendent and Special Education Director. It is essential that these two key contacts are reviewed by security

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

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

ICHAMP (Indiana Complaint, Hearings and Mediation Process) will utilize the following LINK key contacts:

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>.

REMINDER: Designation of Organization's Key Contacts

Security Coordinator instructions can be found <u>here</u>.

educator data for the new school year to IDOE.

• Upload templates via Data Exchange.

A list of key contacts assigned may be found here.

coordinators and updated based on any necessary changes.

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

REMINDER: IEP/ILP System - IDOE Special Programs IDOE's new statewide platform for managing Individual Education Programs (IEPs) and Individual Learning Plans (ILPs) for the 2025-2026 school year is now live. Developed in partnership with PowerSchool, IDOE Special Programs replaces the 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. 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.

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.

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.

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.

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

Consider including language about five quality indicators in your procurement processes. Sample language that may be

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

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.

REMINDER: EdTech Index Now Available for EdTech Procurement Process

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

Office of School Support and Transformation

NEW: Differentiated Monitoring and Support (DMS 2.0)

REMINDER: Special Programs Platform Launch

updates and improvements will be shared with schools soon.

on accurate enrollment records being submitted to IDOE.

included in your RFPs may be found at this link.

REMINDER: School Summer School Reimbursement

Office of School Finance

Education

300.153(b).

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 School Finance with any questions. **REMINDER: Reporting Virtual Students** 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.

NEW: Recipients of Next Generation School Improvement Grant, Cohort 5 Announced

Office of Special Education, English Learning, and Migrant

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

NEW: Title III Allocations and Non-Public Equitable Share Amounts Released

The Office of School Support and Transformation is pleased to announce the recipients of the Next Generation School Improvement Grant, Cohort 5, a federally funded initiative to transform educational opportunities in schools identified for

The U.S. Department of Education Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP) utilizes differentiated supervision and monitoring for states as part of its Results Driven Accountability (RDA) system. This monitoring process known as

differentiated monitoring and support (DMS 2.0) is a multi-month, three phase process with OSEP that requires detailed review of the state's general supervision system. This memo responds to OSEP DMS 2.0 single finding of noncompliance for dispute resolution. IDOE is responding to the finding that the state's regulations at 511 IAC 7-32-77, and state complaint procedures do not include the state education agency (SEA) under IDEA's definition of public agency, as required by 34 C.F.R. §§ 300.33 and

Title III funding allocation amounts for public LEAs and equitable share amounts for non-public schools have been released for the 2025-2027 grant cycle. Title III is supplemental, federal funding to support English learner students, and allocation amounts were based on certified English learner data reported by schools for the 2024-2025 school year. More information regarding the grant application process will be shared directly with schools soon. See IDOE's Title III webpage for allocation tables, grant timelines, and additional information. Contact IDOE's Office of English Learning and Migrant Education with any questions.

additional support under Indiana's approved ESSA plan. Grant recipients will receive one year's worth of planning funds followed by funding for three years of implementation. More information can be found in the Next Generation School Improvement Grant

NEW: Fall WIDA-facilitated PD Opportunities for Teachers of ELs WIDA will be facilitating two separate, in-person PD sessions this fall, open to Indiana educators of ELs free of charge. The first, titled Scaffolding Learning through Language, is a two-day workshop on September 30 and October 1 in Pike Township in Indianapolis. Registration and a description of the session can be found here. Additionally, on Thursday, October 2, a full-day session titled Engaging Secondary Newcomers in Content Area Literacy will also be held at Pike Township. This session's registration and information can be found here. The deadline to register for either opportunity is Friday, September 12. Spaces are limited and districts are limited to two participants per session. Contact IDOE's Office of English Learning and Migrant Education with any questions.

The Special Programs platform is a new IEP and ILP management system intended to better serve English learner and special education students. Improvements to the PowerSchool-powered platform are ongoing and we encourage schools to continue sharing feedback so that the system can be as user-friendly and student-centered as possible. Additional information regarding

As a reminder, the new platform can be accessed via the IDOE Special Programs tile within LINK, and a login guide for users can be found here. To access the platform, users must have the "Student Support Plans" role assigned to them and have completed the required Training Certification through the Special Programs Academy. District- and school-designated Technical Contact(s), listed as IEP/ILP Support in Data Exchange, are responsible for providing system access to users within 48 hours of receiving certification. Technical Contacts are users' first layer of support if assistance is needed in accessing IDOE Special

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.

Programs or managing security roles. To learn more about the platform, please visit the communication dashboard.

REMINDER: English Learner (EL) Exit Criteria Submission Deadline

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 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 Directors Symposium. Specific information, including dates, times, and registration information can be found here. Please direct any questions about 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

menu includes links to examples of highlighted WBL experiences currently available to students across the state. It also includes additional guidance on the WBL definition approved within the diploma requirements to help stakeholders understand the key elements necessary for a WBL experience to count towards graduation requirements. The WBL Menu of Experiences can be found here. Contact CTE@che.in.gov with any questions. Office of Student, School, and Family Engagement **REMINDER: Webinar for School Attendance Officers** IDOE will host a webinar for school attendance officers on Monday, August 25, from 2 to 3 p.m. ET. This webinar will provide information on attendance data, as well as an opportunity to discuss policies, procedures, and initiatives to increase and sustain student attendance. Please register for the webinar here. Contact Stephen Balko with any questions. **REMINDER: Applications Now Open for Career Coaching Grant**

The Career Coaching Grant is designed to assist with the implementation of the Comprehensive Career Navigation and

11:59 p.m. ET. Contact IDOE's Office of Student, School, and Family Engagement with any questions.

Office of Teaching and Learning, Digital Learning, and

Kindergarten Readiness

questions.

Coaching System for Indiana that provides timely, comprehensive, relevant, and useful information on careers; and establishes strategies and identifies capacity to deliver career navigation and coaching to kindergarten through grade 12 students. Grant guidelines and more information about eligible entities can be found here. The application deadline is Friday, September 5, at

NEW: Computer Science Educators Needed for High-Quality Curricular Materials (HQCM) Review

The Office of Curriculum and Instruction is recruiting high school computer science educators for committees that will review core curriculum materials submitted by curriculum providers and aligned with the Next Level Programs of Study (NLPS) course

4565 Computing Foundations for a Digital Age. Only submitted materials aligned with this specific NLPS course will be reviewed. Interested educators should complete and submit this form by 11:45 p.m. ET on Friday, August 29, to be considered for this collaborative opportunity. IDOE will review all applications and notify selected participants the first week of September. Curricular materials approved during this 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. Contact IDOE's Office of Curriculum and Instruction with any

NEW: Educators Needed for Indiana's American Sign Language (ASL) Standards Revision

The Future City Competition is back, and this year's theme is Farm to Table! Middle and high school students are invited to imagine, research, design, and build a city of the future where food systems are sustainable, equitable, and resilient. Registration is open now, and the project kick-off is in September. Learn more and register here. NEW FROM IU ONLINE: M.S.Ed in the Science of Reading Advance your career as a literacy leader with IU Online's M.S.Ed. in the Science of Reading. This fully online degree equips Indiana educators with evidence-based strategies and stackable credentials, including the Early Literacy Endorsement, authorized Dyslexia training, and a literacy coaching credential. Already hold your Endorsement? Apply six credits toward the 30credit program and complete your degree in as little as one year. Apply now. Due to high demand, new info session has been

Weekly Updates View previous weekly updates from Dr. Katie Jenner here. Stay Informed

REMINDER: 2025-2026 Special Education Director Outreach Opportunities The Office of Special Education (OSE) is offering multiple support opportunities for Indiana special education directors and <u>Listen</u> sessions will begin in August and allow OSE to answer <u>submitted follow-up questions</u> regarding the Directors director outreach opportunities to spedassistance@doe.in.gov. **Available** 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. REMINDER: 2025-2026 School Year RoboKind Grant Opportunity Closes Today, Friday, August 15 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 application. Contact robokind@doe.in.gov with additional questions. REMINDER: 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 specialedpartb@doe.in.gov by Monday, December 15. IDEA Part B monitoring reports are now past due, please submit ASAP. 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 with any questions.

REMINDER: 2024-2025 Paraprofessional Training Grant Reimbursement Requests

approved budget must submit an amendment form to McKinneyVentoPOC@doe.in.gov prior to this deadline.

Office of Student Pathways and Opportunities

REMINDER: FFY2025 (FY2026) McKinney-Vento Application Now Open

NEW: 2024-2025 McKinney-Vento Subgrant Amendments

REMINDER: Work-Based Learning Menu of Experiences

Reimbursement" in the subject line.

The 2024-2025 Paraprofessional Training Grant closed on June 30, 2025. The final day to submit reimbursement requests is Friday, August 29. Reimbursement requests should be submitted by email to para@doe.in.gov with "FY24-25 Para Grant

The 2024-2025 McKinney-Vento subgrant amendment deadline is Monday, September 15. Any grantee seeking to amend their

education agencies (LEAs) that reported homeless students for the 2024-2025 school year. The McKinney-Vento grant provides funding to LEAs to support the unique needs and challenges that homeless children and youth face when enrolling, attending, and succeeding in school. LEAs may apply individually or as a consortium. Please use this link to access the application. A webinar will be scheduled to assist in completing the application. Contact McKinneyVentoPOC@doe.in.gov with any questions.

To support the ongoing implementation of the new Indiana high school diploma, IDOE and the Indiana Commission for Higher Education Career and Technical Education Team have collaborated on Work-Based Learning (WBL) guidance to support the ongoing implementation of the new Indiana high school diploma. The WBL Menu of Experiences provides a summary of

different types of WBL experiences available to students aligned to Indiana's new diploma requirements and Honors Seals. The

The McKinney-Vento Grant Application is now open from today, Friday, August 8, through Monday, September 1, to local

The Office of Curriculum and Instruction is recruiting educators for committees that will review the Indiana Academic Standards for American Sign Language (ASL K-12 and ASL Secondary). Interested educators should complete and submit this form by 11:45 p.m. ET on Friday, August 29, to be considered for this collaborative opportunity. IDOE will review all applications and notify selected participants the first week of September. Contact IDOE's Office of Curriculum and Instruction with any questions. REMINDER: 2025-2026 STEM Certification Guidelines Coming This Fall IDOE's Office of Curriculum & Instruction is actively working on updated guidance for the 2025-2026 STEM certification application process for schools interested in seeking STEM certification. The release of the new guidance will be coupled with an informational webinar to introduce the changes in the process and guidance. Schools interested in STEM certification are encouraged to review information regarding schools who have achieved STEM certification. Contact IDOE's STEM Certification <u>Team</u> with any questions. Reminder: 2025-2026 STEM Integration Grant Applications Due Today, 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 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 today, Friday, August 15. Contact <u>TLgrants@doe.in.gov</u> with any questions. REMINDER: 2025-2026 (FY26) High Ability Program Grant Applications Due Today, Friday, August The 2025-2026 (FY26) High Ability Program Grant is designed to support eligible entities in establishing or maintaining high ability programs in accordance with IC 20-36-2-2. All public and charter schools are eligible to receive grant funding for high ability identification and programming. Schools' completed grant applications are due next Friday, August 15. Contact the Office of Teaching and Learning with questions. REMINDER: High-Quality Instruction & Tiered System of Supports Model for Mathematics Beginning in the 2026–2027 school year, IC 20-32-6.5-3 requires schools to provide mathematics intervention for students in kindergarten through grade eight at risk of not meeting grade-level proficiency through a multi-tiered system of support. Initial

guidance related to this intervention model is now available in the <u>High-Quality Instruction & Tiered System of Supports Model</u> for Mathematics two-page overview. The model offers a framework for high-quality instruction through a tiered system of supports, consisting of three levels that progressively intensify to meet students' mathematical needs. Further detailed

guidance and implementation support will soon be available through the Indiana Learning Lab, including grade-banded (K-2, 3-5, and 6-8) math intervention toolkit courses and suggested integration of high-quality instruction and the intervention model with

Join the Title Grants and Support Team for monthly Coffee Chats on the last Thursday of the month at 10 a.m. ET. August's topic will cover Title IV. Please join us via Microsoft Teams here on Thursday, August 28, and forward this link to necessary

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,

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

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

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

NEW FROM THE READING LEAGUE INDIANA: Science of Reading Experts Explain Series

Indiana Learning Lab. See registration details here. Contact IDOE's Literacy Center with any questions.

and four virtual meetings designed around educators' busy schedules. Learn more and register here.

NEW FROM INDY ELEVEN AND TEACH INDY: Back to School Game

NEW FROM DISCOVER ENGINEERING: STEM Future City Competition

Join IDOE and The Reading League Indiana from noon to 1 p.m. ET on Tuesday, September 16 for the next live Experts Explain series with Dr. Steven Graham. Dr. Graham will present Introduction of Evidence-Aligned Writing Instruction. This session will present five principles for teaching writing that were based on close to 900 studies conducted with kindergarten to grade 12 students. Examples of each of these evidence-based practices will be provided. All sessions will be recorded and shared in the

NEW FROM THE CENTER OF EXCELLENCE IN LEADERSHIP OF LEARNING (CELL) AT UINDY: Earn a

Earn a micro-credential in the science of learning - fully online! CELL at the University of Indianapolis is partnering with UKbased teaching and learning organization InnerDrive to offer a fully online course and micro-credential in the science of learning. This course runs from Wednesday, September 10, to Friday, November 7, and features eight asynchronous modules

Indy Eleven Soccer is excited to welcome back educators and students for the 2025-2026 school year. They are once again hosting a Back to School game on Saturday, August, 23, at Michael Carroll Stadium with kickoff at 7 p.m. ET. In partnership with Teach Indy, we're offering buy-one-get-one tickets for educators, school staff, families and students using the link below. For

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

current Assessment and Instructional Frameworks. Contact the Office of Teaching and Learning with questions.

Office of Title Grants and Support

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

REMINDER: Ed-Flex Waiver Application #4

News From Our Partners

Micro-Credential in the Science of Learning

more information contact info@teachindynow.org.

added on Monday, August 18, at 6 p.m. ET. Sign up here.

REMINDER FROM NASA: TechRise Student Challenge

that honors the life and work of Terry Fear. More information can be found here.

resources to share the challenge with your community.

announced at the dinner. More information can be found here.

stakeholders within your district. Please contact <u>Titlel@doe.in.gov</u> with any questions.

REMINDER: Public Comment for IDOE's FFY2023 (FY2024) Fiscal Waiver

REMINDER: Title IV and Indiana Construction Roundtable Foundation Partnership

REMINDER: FFY2025/FY2025 Pre-application Now Available

REMINDER: August Coffee Chat

with any questions.

ICRF's website.

contact TitleIV@doe.in.gov.

REMINDER FROM THE INDIANA SUPREME COURT: Judges Speakers Bureau and Constitution Day The Indiana Supreme Court has a <u>Judges Speakers Bureau</u> with contact information of over 300 judicial officers. These volunteer judges are willing to speak to K-12 classrooms in their respective counties about courts and the law, including for Constitution Day. They can assist in promoting an understanding of the purpose and structure of Indiana's judicial system. Feel free to contact a judicial officer on the list and ask them about speaking to your group for Constitution Day. Contact Sarah Kidwell with any questions. REMINDER FROM THE OFFICE OF U.S. SENATOR TODD YOUNG: Academy Days Each year, members of Congress have the privilege of recommending a select group of individuals for admission to the U.S. service academies. Senator Young is honored to nominate a number of highly-qualified young men and women to the nation's service academies. On Monday, August 18, Senator Young will host an Academy Day at the Indiana War Memorial beginning at 5:30 p.m. ET. This information session is planned for students interested in learning more about America's service academies. Representatives from each academy will be available to answer questions. While attendance is certainly not required to obtain a nomination, representatives present at Academy Day can help answer specific questions potential applicants may have about a particular academy or the congressional nominations process. To RSVP, contact Academy_Nominations@young.senate.gov. REMNDER FROM THE SOCIETY OF INDIANA PIONEERS: Grant Money Now Available The Society of Indiana Pioneers invites teachers to apply now for grants to help underwrite the cost of field trips and hands-on Indiana history projects. Field experience grants of \$800 may be used for costs connected with trips to historic sites in Indiana, with preference to those involving the pioneer period. The Holliday Awards are \$1,000 grants for classroom projects that bring the pioneer era to life for students. The field trip grants are available on a rolling basis. The application deadline for the Holliday Awards is Tuesday, September 30. Contact indianapioneers@gmail.com with any questions.

This year's challenge opens in September and invites student teams in sixth through 12th grade to submit experiment ideas to fly on a commercial space industry suborbital flight (e.g., rocket, high-altitude balloon). Sixty winning teams will also receive \$1,500 to build their experiment, a spot to test it on a NASA-sponsored flight, and technical support from NASA TechRise

advisors. The challenge is a great way to get hands-on with a NASA project this school year, and we encourage teams of all skill levels to apply. Updated challenge resources (including videos, slide decks, and educator pacing guides) can all be found on the challenge website here when the challenge opens. Contact techrise@futureengineers.org to request additional information or

REMINDER FROM CANDLES HOLOCAUST MUSEUM AND EDUCATION CENTER: Fourth Annual Terry

CANDLES founder and Holocaust survivor Eva Kor lived by four life lessons. Students are invited to select one lesson and write an essay that explains how this lesson applies to their life. CANDLES will select up to two winners. Each winner will receive two tickets for the "Evening of Light" dinner: one ticket for the student and one for a teacher, parent, or adult to accompany the winner. (The winners may also purchase additional tickets.) Winners will also receive a CANDLES shirt, a certificate, and will be

CANDLES Holocaust Museum and Education Center recognizes one educator each year through the Terry Fear Educator in Action Award, established in 2022. CANDLES honors Terry's legacy by presenting this award to an educator who supports Holocaust and Genocide Education. This award seeks to identify, support, and celebrate educators who live and teach in a way

Fear Holocaust Educator in Action Award and the Evening of Light Student Essay Contest

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

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,

September 8. One final information session will be held on Tuesday, August 19. To learn more or register for one of these sessions, visit the Lilly Endowment website. Contact Lilly Endowment staff with any questions. 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.

This email was sent by: %%Member_Busname%% %%Member_Addr%%, %%Member_City%%, %%Member_State%%, %%Member_PostalCode%% %%Member_Country%% **Privacy Notice**

Unsubscribe

Manage Preferences