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INDIANA
DEPARTMENT of
EDUCATION

Dr. Jenner's Weekly Update

Weekly Newsletter from the Indiana Department of Education

August 8, 2025

A Message from Dr. Katie Jenner

I want to flag something for each of you that you may have missed during the summer months…this is great news for Indiana and you deserve the credit for making this happen. Indiana recently received a national award for innovation in education, and each of you deserve to be thanked and commended! Everything that we have done together as a state at scale started with a local community that provided an example of what was possible. Take a moment to read more below about this award that we all share, and most importantly…let's keep our foot on the gas and continue to drive a strong impact for kids, our communities, and Indiana.

Here's a bit more about the award….

For the first time in our state's history, Indiana was [honored with the 2025 Frank Newman Award for State Innovation](#), a national award recognizing Indiana's historic investments and advancements in literacy, as well as the development of the [Indiana Graduates Prepared to Succeed (GPS) dashboard](#).

A big factor in earning this recognition was our state's ongoing early literacy progress. As you know, in 2022, the state of Indiana partnered with Lilly Endowment, Inc. to make a historic investment in literacy ($170 million), focused on science of reading. This investment allowed us to deploy a number of comprehensive, strategic solutions aimed at helping more students learn to read.

Literacy rates have now increased for three consecutive years, including the largest-ever single-year increase in 2024. Earlier this year, Indiana students also jumped to sixth in the nation in reading according to results from the 2024 National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) rankings. This is the highest Indiana has ever ranked in fourth grade reading, which reaffirms that the time and resources invested by educators, parents and families, community partners, and many others are paying off for students.

As we prepare to release 2025 IREAD scores next Wednesday, this award is an important reminder of the hard work and commitment of educators in every corner of our state who are constantly pushing for improvement.

Congratulations on the role you have played in helping Indiana earn this recognition, and as always, thank you for all that you do for students!

From the U.S. Department of Education

REMINDER: Release of Title Funds

On Friday, July 25, IDOE received a message from the U.S. Department of Education (USED) regarding the release of Title funds. Beginning the week of July 28, 2025, USED began releasing funding for the current federal and education fiscal year for the following formula programs:

- Title I-C, ESEA: Migrant Student Education;
- Title II-A, ESEA: Supporting Effective Instruction State Grants;
- Title III-A, ESEA: English Language Acquisition; and
- Title IV-A, ESEA: Student Support and Academic Enrichment State Grants.

We look forward to working with schools to distribute these funds and will share information as we know more from USED.

REMINDER: Title IV-B Funding

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.

Legislative Updates

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

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, 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 no penalties for excused absences in Indiana law. State law only requires intervention after 10 or more *unexcused* absences. Any decision beyond this is determined locally.

REMINDER: 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 Friday, 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 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.

REMINDER: Third-Party Accreditation Petition Window is Open

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 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.

REMINDER: School and Profile Amendment Window

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

Office of Assessment

NEW: 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.

NEW: 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 Assessment Milestones Now Available

New milestones documents to support the administration of 2025-2026 statewide assessments are now available:

- SAT School Day Milestones

- PSAT/NMSQT Milestones

Some dates are approximate and may be subject to minor changes. Contact IDOE's Office of Student Assessment with any questions.

REMINDER: 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 Contact College Board with any questions.

- Monday, August 18: Indianapolis
- Tuesday, August 19: Charlestown & Greenwood
- Wednesday, August 20: Evansville
- Thursday, August 21: Fort Wayne
- Friday, August 22: Merrillville

A virtual SAT Suite of Assessments Implementation Webinar 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.

REMINDER: 2025-2026 Formative (Interim) Assessment Grant Application Due Today, Friday, August 8

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 8. 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

REMINDER: Weekly Office Hours Preferred Universal Screener Acadience Reading

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 Literacy Center with any questions.

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 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 with any questions.

Office of Information Technology

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.
- Udemy for all IT and central office employees: 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 members.

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'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.

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). On Tuesday, July 15, IDOE began showing data provided to DEX and is now 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 now live. 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

REMINDER: School Summer School Reimbursement

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: Form 9 Data July - December 2025

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

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.

Office of School Support and Transformation

REMINDER: Next Generation School Prioritized Expert Partners

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

Office of Special Education, English Learning, and Migrant Education

UPDATE: Special Programs Platform Launch

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 updates and improvements will be shared with schools soon.

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

REMINDER: English Learner (EL) Exit Criteria Submission Deadline

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.

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 administrators through the 2025-2026 school year. The Directors Symposium 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 Listen sessions will begin in August and allow OSE to answer submitted follow-up questions 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 Directors Symposium. Specific information, including dates, times, and registration information can be found here. Please direct any questions about director outreach opportunities to spedassistance@doe.in.gov.

REMINDER: IEP TA Center Upcoming Trainings

Join the IEP TA Center for the following virtual training sessions offered from 4 to 5:30 p.m. ET:

- Wednesday, August 13 – Early Childhood Continuum of Placement
- Wednesday, August 27 – Multi-Tiered System of Supports Tier 1.5: Class-wide Intervention
- Thursday, September 11 – Dropout Prevention

For more information and to register, visit the IEP TA Center website and select Workshops.

REMINDER: 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 questions.

REMINDER: 2025-2026 School Year RoboKind Grant Opportunity

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

Office of Student Pathways and Opportunities

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

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

REMINDER: Work-Based Learning Menu of Experiences

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 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 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 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

NEW: 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 Team with any questions.

NEW: Resources for Parents and Families in the Indiana Learning Lab

The Parent and Family Support Hub in the Learning Lab features resources to support parents and families of students from birth through high school. Schools are invited to send this informational flyer and this tutorial video to their communities. Contact IDOE's Office of Digital Learning with any questions.

REMINDER: 2025-2026 (FY26) High Ability Program Grant Applications Due Friday, August 15

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.

NEW: LVIS-Indiana Learning Lab Integration Support Sessions

Join us for a virtual help session designed to support educators in seamlessly integrating LVIS with the Indiana Learning Lab. Once completed, professional development in the Learning Lab will be automatically recorded in LVIS. Register here for one of the following dates:

- Tuesday, August 19 at 4 p.m. ET
- Thursday, August 21, at 7:30 a.m. ET, or

- Wednesday, August 27, at noon ET

Directions are also available on demand. Contact IDOE's Office of Digital Learning with any 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 High-Quality Instruction & Tiered System of Supports Model 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 current Assessment and Instructional Frameworks. Contact the Office of Teaching and Learning with questions.

REMINDER: 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 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 TLgrants@doe.in.gov with any questions.

Office of Title Grants and Support

NEW: August Coffee Chat

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 stakeholders within your district. Please contact TitleI@doe.in.gov with any questions.

REMINDER: 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: 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.

REMINDER: Title IV and Indiana Construction Roundtable Foundation Partnership

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 ICRF's website.

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.

News From Our Partners

NEW FROM THE INDIANA SUPREME COURT: Judges Speakers Bureau and Constitution Day

The Indiana Supreme Court has a Judges Speakers Bureau 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.

NEW 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.

NEW 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.

NEW FROM NASA: TechRise Student Challenge

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 resources to share the challenge with your community.

NEW FROM ATLAS: ATLAS Answers Monthly Series Launch

ATLAS is excited to launch ATLAS Answers, a new live monthly series starting this August. Each session will highlight a different assistive technology (AT) topic to help you build your knowledge and confidence with AT tools and strategies. Join each month for a brief, focused presentation on a featured AT topic, followed by open Q&A time for educators to ask questions and get support. Each session will be recorded and available for on-demand viewing, with August's focus on AT 101: What is in the ATLAS Lending Library and How to Use it. Join the live sessions via Zoom on Tuesday, August 19, at 3:30 p.m. ET or Wednesday, August 27, at noon ET. For more information, contact Keri Bridges at ATLAS.

REMINDER FROM THE MASSACHUSETTS INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY (MIT): Calculus for America High School Pilot Program

MIT invites high schools with low enrollment, completion rates, and passing of AP exams in Calculus to participate in a fall 2025 Pilot of MIT Calculus for America. This pilot program will align trained MIT students and alumni with high school sites where they will support introductory high school calculus courses through tutoring and mentoring. MIT students and alumni will help high school learners in these classes succeed via remote tutoring and, when appropriate, AI tutors will be made available to assist with student learning. For more information about the program's mission, vision and Fall Pilot Program visit the MIT Calculus for America website and brochure. Interested schools may reach out to mitforamerica@mit.edu with any questions.

REMINDER FROM CANDLES HOLOCAUST MUSEUM AND EDUCATION CENTER: Fourth Annual Terry Fear Holocaust Educator in Action Award and the Evening of Light Student Essay Contest

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

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

REMINDER FROM THE LILLY ENDOWMENT: Renewal Grants for Indiana K-12 Educators
Lilly Endowment is accepting applications for its Teacher Creativity Fellowship Program. 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.

Weekly Updates

View previous weekly updates from Dr. Katie Jenner here.

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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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