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INDIANA DEPARTMENT of EDUCATION

Dr. Jenner's Weekly Update

Weekly Newsletter from the Indiana Department of Education

September 5, 2025

A Message from Dr. Katie Jenner

Often when speaking with educators, parents and families, and business leaders across the state about how we can improve student outcomes, one theme that consistently comes up is the importance of *attendance*. As educators, we know (and the data confirms!) that students who consistently come to school have more success throughout their K-12 education and beyond. This is why we continue to focus on improving the state's chronic absenteeism rate.

As a quick reminder, a student is chronically absent when they miss 10% or more of school days. In Indiana, a school year is 180 days. Chronically absent students in Indiana are missing 18 *or more* days of school, which is nearly three weeks **or more**.

Each fall, we release updates on the previous year's chronic absenteeism rates. 2024-2025 data show that Indiana's chronic absenteeism rate was 16.7%, an improvement of 1.1 percentage points from the previous school year. Key takeaways from the 2024-2025 data include:

- Indiana's chronic absenteeism rate is **moving in the right direction**, improving for three consecutive years. Statewide, chronic absenteeism has **improved 4.4 percentage points** since 2022, yet there is *more work to do* to return to pre-pandemic levels.
- Data show that many student populations who experienced the greatest academic impacts in ELA and math following the pandemic are improving more quickly than the state overall.
  - **Black students** - Improved 1.6 percentage points
  - **Hispanic students** - Improved 1.2 percentage points
  - **Students receiving free/reduced price meals** - Improved 1.7 percentage points
- The number of schools with fewer than 10% of students who are chronically absent grew from **686** in 2024 to **797** in 2025, yet **78** schools have more than 50% of students who are chronically absent.
- Rates of chronic absenteeism continue to be the **highest in grades nine through 12**. Nearly **one in three** Hoosier students are chronically absent during their senior year.
  - This underscores the *urgency* behind our ongoing work to **rethink the high school experience** and ensure more parents and students see the value in education.
- Students who are chronically absent are *significantly less likely* to **read by third grade**, master **key ELA and math skills**, or be **college-ready**.

Together, we are making strides in a number of key academic indicators…and working alongside educators and parents/families to ensure students are coming to school each day will continue to be KEY in improving our learning outcomes. Thank you for all that you continue to do for Indiana students!

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: 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: 2025 Cohort Mandatory and Voluntary Graduation Rate Audit

All schools that are subject to the mandatory graduation rate audit of the 2025 cohort have been notified by email. If you did not receive an email and/or are unsure if your school was selected, please check the list of mandatory audit schools (Enrollment key: "**AccountabilityCommunity**"). Every high school should review their 2025 cohort. If there are students in the 2025 cohort with an incorrect (non-graduate) cohort status, please submit those students on the voluntary graduation rate audit template. All schools are welcome to participate in the voluntary graduation rate audit, and it is the final opportunity to request a change to the 2025 cohort. The mandatory and voluntary graduation rate audits will be open from Wednesday, October 1, through Friday, October 24. Contact IDOE's Office of Accountability with any questions.

Office of Assessment

NEW: Early Learning Transition Summit Registration

Learn more about IDOE's Kindergarten model and self assessment and hear from a panel of colleagues participating in transition cohorts utilizing the tool from around the state on Friday, October 24, from 12:30 to 2 p.m. ET at the annual Transition Summit. The Summit is presented in collaboration with the Indiana Family and Social Service Administration's Office of Early Childhood and Out-of-School Learning and Indiana Head Start Association, and registration is available here. Contact IDOE's Office of Student Assessment with any questions.

NEW: Family Portal FAQ and Brochure Now Available

Beginning this school year, Cambium's Indiana Family Portal will be available for families to view their child's assessment results for ILEARN (Checkpoints & Summative), IREAD, and I AM. The Family Portal can be accessed by families once data is available for ILEARN Checkpoint 1. Schools should continue to use Cambium's Centralized Reporting System (CRS) to view assessment results. To share results with families, schools can communicate login instructions and access codes for the Family Portal using autogenerated messages from the Test Information Distribution Engine (TIDE). Review the new Family Portal FAQ and brochure for more information about the purpose of the Family Portal and how to share access codes. Schools may continue to download Individual Student Reports (ISRs) from CRS to share with families, but sharing the Family Portal access code and instructions would suffice for schools on sharing results. Contact IDOE's Office of Student Assessment with any questions.

REMINDER: Returning Unspent Formative (Interim) Assessment Grant Funds

Corporations and non-public schools must return all unused funds to IDOE by today, Friday, September 5, using the process indicated in the 2024-2025 Formative Assessment Grant Final Report Guidance. Schools must ensure a 2024-2025 Formative Assessment Grant Final Report has been submitted and should confirm through local documentation any unused funds for the 2024-2025 school year. To confirm the total allocation received for the 2024-2025 school year, schools must check their automated clearing house (ACH) deposit with a deposit message of "Remediation Testing FY24." Schools that submit a memo and check without requested information will be contacted and asked to submit corrections. Checks will not be approved for deposit until IDOE receives requested corrections. Contact IDOE's Office of Student Assessment with any questions.

REMINDER: 2025-2026 Indiana SAT Accommodations Crosswalk

The 2025-2026 Indiana SAT Accommodations Crosswalk is now available for schools to refer to, as needed. This resource was updated to help educators understand the relationship between College Board's SSD Online, the assessment accommodations in IDOE Special Program, and related daily accommodations. This resource can be found on the Indiana Resources - College Board public-facing Google Drive and the High School Assessment webpage. Contact IDOE's Office of Student Assessment with any questions.

Office of Educator Talent and the Literacy Center

NEW: Application Window Now Open for the 2025 Educational Excellence Awards

The fourth annual Indiana Educational Excellence Awards Gala will be held in Indianapolis on Friday, November 21. Financial awards will be granted to schools to celebrate their progress and achievement in supporting student excellence and growth. To be considered for an award, schools can complete an application here by Friday, September 26, at 5 p.m. ET. Contact IDOE's Office of Educator Talent with any questions.

NEW: Teacher Nominations Open – 2025 Educational Excellence Awards

In preparation for the fourth annual Educational Excellence Awards Gala in Indianapolis on Friday, November 21, IDOE is now accepting award nominations for outstanding teachers! Stakeholders are invited to nominate an excellent educator via this form by Friday, September 26, at 5 p.m. ET. Winners will be invited by IDOE to attend the awards gala to celebrate their achievement and dedication to serving Hoosier students. All certified Indiana teachers are eligible. Contact IDOE's Office of Educator Talent with any questions.

REMINDER: IDOE Renewing & Expanding Recruitment & Hiring Resources - Opt in Today

IDOE is excited to announce the renewal of the partnership with Nimble to continue to provide schools with free access to the applicant tracking system and access to post on the statewide job board which sees over 100,000 job seekers annually. Coming in 2026, all schools will have access to a premium recruiting service that delivers high quality candidates looking for teaching positions in your area. To learn more, schedule a call with our partners at Nimble or opt in today. Contact IDOE's Office of Educator Talent with any questions.

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

Educators who have completed 80-hours of professional development will complete this form to verify details of their training and upload their completion certificates. Once the professional development has been approved, IDOE will issue a confirmation letter that will be used by the educator to support the early literacy endorsement application in LVIS. The frequently asked questions document with additional information regarding the early literacy endorsement can be found here. Additional questions and answers will be included in the document as they arise. Contact IDOE's Literacy Center with any questions.

Office of Information Technology

REMINDER: 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.

Office of School Finance

REMINDER: School Summer School Reimbursement

Thank you to those that have already submitted reimbursement requests. The window to submit final 2025 summer school costs is open until Monday, September 15. Instructions for submitting summer school costs can be found in this memo. Contact IDOE's Office of School Finance with any questions.

Office of School Support and Transformation

NEW: Update on School Improvement Plan Expectations

House Enrolled Act (HEA) 1002-2025, passed during the 2025 legislative session, repealed IC 20-31-5, eliminating the requirement for Indiana schools to submit state-level School Improvement Plans (SIPs) beginning with the 2025-2026 school year. While continuous improvement planning remains a best practice, submission is no longer mandated by the state. Submission is still required for schools federally designated under the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA):

- Comprehensive Support and Improvement (CSI) schools must upload their CNA/SIP via the Link Portal under the School Improvement tile.
- Targeted Support and Improvement (TSI) and Additional Targeted Support and Improvement (ATSI) schools must submit SIPs to their local education agency (LEA). Uploading to the Link Portal is optional.

The submission window is now open through Friday, October 3. For templates and additional details, see the full memo here. Contact IDOE's Office of School Support and Transformation with any questions.

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

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

Offices of Special Education, English Learning and Migrant Education

NEW: Office Hours for FY26 IDEA Part B 611 and 619 Applications

The Office of Special Education's Part B fiscal team will be hosting office hours to assist LEAs with completing the FY 2026 611- and 619-Part B grant applications. A checklist has been included in each application to assist LEAs in accurately completing each application. Join the 60-minute sessions to get answers to Part B questions or help with the completion and submission process. The following dates and times are scheduled for Part B office hours:

- Tuesday September 16, from 1 to 2 p.m. ET
- Friday September 19, from 11 a.m. to noon ET

Contact IDOE's Office of Special Education with any questions.

REMINDER: IDEA Equitable Services Consultation Due Monday, September 15

Evidence of initial consultation for IDEA Proportionate Share equitable services with all non-public schools located within your district boundaries is due by Monday, September 15. As a reminder, the submission should include evidence of the consultation with non-public schools that is required to prepare for the 2025-2026 school year. IDOE provided an Affirmation of Consultation template for IDEA services which is available in Moodle. If a non-public school(s) is unresponsive, documentation of good faith efforts to provide consultation must be submitted. For more information, the IDEA Consultation Best Practices presentation slides are available in Moodle (Fiscal>>Part B>>Guidance Documents>>Presentations). All submissions should be submitted via email to ombudsman@doe.in.gov. Please include the four-digit corporation number in the email subject line (e.g., 0000 - Initial Consultation Documents). Contact ombudsman@doe.in.gov with any questions.

REMINDER: FY24 IDEA Part B 611 & 619 Reimbursement Requests

IDOE is required to obtain all supporting documentation for reimbursement requests beyond the end date of the grant award (i.e., federal award ending Tuesday, September 30, requires reimbursement request received from Wednesday, October 1, through Monday, December 15, on the closing grant), have supporting documentation accompanying the reimbursement request to ensure that all activities and related expenses took place within the associated period of availability for the federal project being charged. Document(s) supporting the reimbursement request to ensure grantees are accounting for the total amount requested and that expenses were properly encumbered by Tuesday, September 30, must be submitted. Acceptable documentation may include:

- Paid dates,
- Receipts or invoices showing as payment,
- Purchase order or encumbrance dates (handwritten is not acceptable),
- Ledger or computer document showing dates and expenses (Excel is not acceptable), or
- Amounts total the reimbursement request reviewed.

Contact IDOE's Office of Special Education with 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: 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.

Office of Student Pathways and Opportunities

REMINDER: Implementation Support for the New Indiana Diploma, Demonstration of Skill Development in Communication, Collaboration, and Work Ethic

As Indiana transitions to the new high school diploma and readiness seals, IDOE provides this guidance to support the measurement of skill development beginning in the 2025-2026 school year. Communication, collaboration, and work ethic are a set of skills that were elevated through feedback from Hoosiers about what matters most for a student's long-term success. Verification of these skills is a requirement of multiple readiness seals which students may earn in addition to their diploma. Contact IDOE's Office of Student Pathways and Opportunities 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. 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

NEW: Webinar Series for Foster Youth and McKinney-Vento Points of Contact

IDOE and Indiana Department of Child Services (DCS) are hosting a webinar series for local ESSA/Foster and McKinney-Vento/Homeless points of contact. Registration is required and schools are encouraged to share the webinar links with any staff who may benefit from attending. See this flyer for more information. Contact FosterYouth@doe.in.gov with any questions.

REMINDER: Applications for Career Coaching Grant Due Today, Friday, September 5

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 today, Friday, September 5, at 11:59 p.m. ET. Contact IDOE's Office of Student, School, and Family Engagement with any questions.

Offices of Curriculum and Instruction, Digital Learning, and Kindergarten Readiness

NEW: Artificial Intelligence (AI) Platforms in Indiana Series

Are you interested in seeing the AI platforms teachers and students are using in Indiana? Through grant opportunities, corporations across the state adopted AI platforms that met vendor requirements set forth by IDOE. Join us in the Indiana Learning Lab Monday, September 22, through Thursday, September 25, for sessions that highlight the capabilities and features of these platforms. Register for these workshops in the Indiana Learning Lab. Contact IDOE's Digital Learning Team with any questions.

NEW: Public Comment Window Now Open for Indiana Academic Standards for World Language

Committees of K-12 and postsecondary world language educators convened to recommend updates to the Indiana Academic Standards for World Language (Classical-Modern, East Asian, and Heritage Language Learners). The draft standards are now available for public comment through 11:45 p.m. ET on Friday, September 26. Use this Jotform to access all three sets of draft standards and detailed instructions for participating in this process. Educator committees will consider all additional feedback and formalize for IDOE upon conclusion of the public comment period. Contact IDOE's Office of Curriculum and Instruction with questions.

NEW: PD with IDOE - Real Talk: AI and the Teacher's Desk

Join Indiana Teacher of the Year, Graciela Miranda, and Pike High School English teacher, Whitney Wituski, as they pull back the curtain on what it's really like to bring AI into English classrooms. They will share how teaching has shifted, what students are teaching us about AI, and the unexpected ways it's shaping lessons. Register here. Contact IDOE's Digital Learning Team with any questions.

REMINDER: 2025-2026 K-12 Robotics Competition Grant Recipients Announced

IDOE is pleased to announce the 92 recipients of the 2025-2026 K-12 Robotics Competition Grant. This competitive grant opportunity supports schools and other eligible entities in providing opportunities to increase interest and improve STEM skills through participation in competitive robotics programs. Review this memo for a list of the winners. Slides shared during the kickoff meeting and a recording of the session are now available for review. Contact TLGrants@doe.in.gov with any questions.

Office of Title Grants and Support

NEW: Title Grants Quarterly Meeting

The Title Grants and Support Team will continue hosting a meeting each quarter to provide updates regarding federal grants. The next quarterly meeting will hosted on Thursday, September 18, at 10 a.m. ET. Contact TitleI@doe.in.gov with any questions.

NEW: September Coffee Chat

Join the Title Grants and Support team for monthly Coffee Chats. Coffee Chats are the last Thursday of the month at 10 a.m. ET. September's topic will cover Euna Grants. Please join us via Microsoft Teams here on Thursday, September 25, and forward this link to necessary stakeholders within your district. Please contact TitleI@doe.in.gov with any questions.

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

The McKinney-Vento Grant Application is now open through Friday, September 19, 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: FFY2025/FY2026 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 was due July 1, 2025 (please note, reimbursement eligibility begins July 1, 2025, or the date at which the Pre-application is submitted in reviewable format, whichever is later). Contact titlei@doe.in.gov with any questions.

REMINDER: Ed-Flex Waiver Application #4

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

REMINDER: 2024-2025 McKinney-Vento Subgrant Amendments

The 2024-2025 McKinney-Vento subgrant amendment deadline is Monday, September 15. Any grantee seeking to amend their approved budget must submit an amendment form to McKinneyVentoPOC@doe.in.gov prior to this deadline.

Indiana Commission for Higher Education

NEW: Learn More Indiana and Indiana529 Contest

As part of College GO! 2025, Learn More Indiana and Indiana529 are hosting a contest. Students in grades K-12 can visit LearMoreIndiana.org/collegego and complete a short survey for a chance to win a $1,000 Indiana529 account deposit. The contest closes on Friday, November 21.

REMINDER: Pledge Your School to Participate in Indiana College GO!

Join Learn More Indiana and the Indiana Commission for Higher Education as they celebrate and encourage students to apply to colleges around the state. If your school plans to participate, complete the pledge here. If your school serves grades nine through twelve, you can sign up to participate in the American College Application Campaign's (ACAC) School of Excellence Award using the same link.

REMINDER: Learn More Indiana School Shipments

The eagerly anticipated Learn More Indiana shipments are on their way to K-12 schools around the state. This year's shipment will contain updated handouts, 21st Century Scholars Grade Guide postcards, posters, and Educator Guides. Shipments are being sent in batches. If you do not see any shipment results for your school today, check back in a couple of days for the most up-to-date information. You can track your shipment by visiting LearnMoreIndiana.org/shipment.

REMINDER: List of Institutions Participating in College Application Week Released

More than 30 Indiana higher education institutions are waiving college application fees during College Application Week! As a reminder, College GO! Kicks off with #WhyApply Day on Friday, September 19. College Application Week is Monday, September 22, through Friday, September 26. For the full list of participating institutions, and to access materials for College GO! visit LearnMoreIndiana.org/collegego.

News From Our Partners

NEW FROM CORTEVA: AI Starts Here - A Free Bootcamp for Future Tech Trailblazers

Discover how the Mark Cuban Foundation AI Bootcamp in Indianapolis is transforming high school students into future tech leaders – no coding experience required! This free, hands-on program introduces students to AI concepts, ethical discussions, and real-world applications, all while connecting them with passionate mentors and professionals. The Indianapolis bootcamp is proudly hosted at Corteva's headquarters. Interested high school students can apply here. Please contact Meg Ryan with any questions.

NEW FROM KEEP INDIANA LEARNING: The Role of Oral Language in Developing Background Knowledge

This interactive workshop delves into the vital connection between background knowledge and oral language, crucial foundations for comprehension across all subjects. The session will explore techniques for fostering rich conversations, leveraging technology for language and knowledge building, and developing an action plan. Educators will leave equipped with actionable strategies to strengthen student learning through intentional oral language experiences. Be sure to register in advance. Please contact Martie Hoofer at Keep Indiana Learning with questions.

REMINDER FROM THE WABASH VALLEY EDUCATION CENTER (WVEC): K-6 Annual Literacy Conference

Join us for a magical day of rolling out the red carpet for best practices in literacy instruction! WVEC's Annual Literacy Conference is on Wednesday, September 17, and Thursday, September 18, in West Lafayette. From small group instruction on day one with Dr. Jamey Peavler to Morphology Instruction on day two with Savannah Campbell, there is something to take away for everyone. Click here for additional details and registration. Questions can be directed to Melissa Gill.

REMINDER FROM CIESC | INDIANA ONLINE: VIRTUAL PROGRAM LEADERSHIP MEETING

As the state affiliate for the national organization, Community for Advancing Digital Learning (DLAC), CIESC | Indiana Online will be hosting the Indy DLAC Meeting where Indiana digital learning leaders who have or are planning a virtual school or program will connect, collaborate, and network to discuss current local trends, new legislation, and various topics that promote quality virtual learning in our state. Our first meeting of 2025 will be in-person at CIESC on September 22, from noon to 4 p.m. ET. Lunch will be provided. If you are interested in joining us or would like to receive updates about future meetings, please complete this Indy DLAC Interest form. Contact Natalie Freeman with any questions.

REMINDER FROM THE INDIANA STATE MUSEUM: Register Now to Attend Indiana Innovation Day

Indiana students in kindergarten through grade eight are invited to enjoy Indiana Innovation Day on Friday, September 19, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. ET. Indiana Innovation Day is a fun-filled day when students can explore the history, technology and innovations of Indiana through community exhibitors, interactive activities and design challenges. Students will use their imagination to tinker, make, create, invent and play! Admission is $6 per student and $2 per chaperone, while teachers get in for free. Contact Nicole Rife with any questions and to schedule a visit.

REMINDER FROM THE INDIANA STATE MUSEUM: Tinkerfest

Indiana students of all ages are encouraged to attend Tinkerfest on Saturday, September 20, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. ET. Tinkerfest is a daylong celebration of curiosity and creativity. Attendees can explore over 30 hands-on, interactive activities hosted by innovative community exhibitors designed to engage and inspire the inner builders, coders, artists, makers and tinkerers of all ages. Included with admission, $5/Access Pass members and 50% off admission for Scouting America and Girl Scout families. Contact Bethany Thomas or visit the Tinkerfest event webpage for more information.

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

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

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. Contact Lilly Endowment staff with any questions.

Weekly Updates

View previous weekly updates from Dr. Katie Jenner here.

Stay Informed

Did you miss a message? View previous weekly emails here.

Dr. Jenner's Weekly Update from the Indiana Department of Education is distributed every Friday morning.

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