



## February 23, 2026

This monthly newsletter from the Indiana Department of Education (IDOE) Office of Special Education (OSE) includes resources, guidance, and support for special education directors, educators, and administrators who provide essential services that Indiana's students with disabilities need to learn and thrive.

### Fiscal

#### Part B Office Hours - Year Five Fiscal Year 2026 Maintenance of Effort

The Indiana Department of Education's (IDOE's) Office of Special Education will hold a Maintenance of Effort (MOE) Office Hours to provide technical assistance and answer specific MOE-related questions. The MOE process demonstrates LEA compliance with the IDEA Part B requirement to maintain year-to-year state/local funding for special education programming. Each LEA must complete the MOE workbook, even if it is a member of a special education consortium. Because completion of this workbook requires coordination, LEA special education and business office staff are both encouraged to attend these office hours. Please use the links below to join:

- [Wednesday, February 25, from 1 to 2 p.m. ET](#)
- [Monday, March 2, from 11 a.m. to 12 p.m. ET](#)

#### Fiscal Year (FY) 2024 611 and 619 Final Reports

Any FY 2024 final reports that have not been submitted for 611 and 619 are now past due. Please submit these reports via email at [partbgrants@doe.in.gov](mailto:partbgrants@doe.in.gov) by Friday, February 27.

#### Non-Public School Consultation Documentation

All public local educational agencies (LEAs) that have a fiscal year (FY) 2026 Part B proportionate share requirement must email documentation demonstrating ongoing consultation for equitable services to IDOE's [ombudsman](#). Documentation was due on Monday, February 16, and is now past due. Please submit the required information as soon as possible.

- Written affirmation of timely, meaningful, and ongoing consultation (pursuant to 34 CFR §300.134) signed by representatives of participating non-public schools and parents of parentally placed non-public school students with disabilities (pursuant to 34 CFR §300.135).
- If the representatives do not provide written affirmation within a reasonable period of time, the LEA must forward documentation of the non-public consultation process.
- This documentation must be submitted by each LEA that is required to set aside a proportionate share of its FY 2026 Part B grant funds for provision of equitable services (specialized instruction and related services) to parentally placed students with disabilities attending non-public schools, including home schools, located within their district boundaries.
- Examples of acceptable documentation include meeting minutes or agendas, communication logs, etc. LEAs may also complete the [IDEA Equitable Services Ongoing Consultation Affirmation form](#) with appropriate signatures to meet this requirement.
- All email submissions must begin with the four-digit corporation number in the subject line (e.g., XXXX Ongoing Consultation Submission).

Contact IDOE's [ombudsman](#) with any questions.

### Monitoring

#### Spread the Word: Preparation for First Steps Transition

IDOE has created the following joint guidance with the Family and Social Services Administration (FSSA) - [Spread the Word: Preparation for First Steps Transition](#). This document seeks to add clarity about the difference between the First Steps requirement for transition planning meetings and the joint First Steps/LEA requirement for transition conferences. There are no new requirements or changes to requirements in this guidance. LEAs can contact IDOE's [Office of Special Education](#) or FSSA's [Bureau of Child Development Services](#) with any questions.

#### Early Childhood Special Education Directory

In response to requests from educators and school leaders, we are creating an Early Childhood Special Education Directory. To be part of this directory, local education agencies (LEAs) are invited to complete [this voluntary form](#). Once this directory information is gathered, a searchable format will be created and posted to the Office of Special Education Moodle to assist LEAs in connecting with colleagues around the state about topics of interest in early childhood special education.

### IDOE Special Programs

#### National Special Programs PowerUp Event

Join the upcoming Special Programs webinar, hosted by PowerSchool, to learn how to streamline workflows, ensure compliance, and save time with powerful features like:

- Progress Monitoring,
- Accommodations Reporting,
- Communication Tools,
- My Student Table data,
- File-Based Documents,
- Audit & Event Logs,
- Related Services Data Monitoring,
- And more!

The next webinar will take place on Tuesday, March 10, at 1 p.m. ET. Click [here](#) to register.

### Technical Assistance and Professional Development

#### 2026 Special Education Director Outreach Opportunities

The IDOE Office of Special Education is offering multiple support opportunities for Indiana special education directors and administrators in 2026. Join the March sessions to learn more about early childhood placement, braille orders/returns, and discipline data.

- The [Directors Symposium](#) is held monthly to provide relevant policy and resource updates that support directors in strengthening compliance in their corporation's reporting.
- [Lead and Listen](#) sessions enable the OSE director and specialists to address submitted [follow-up questions](#) regarding the Directors Symposium.
- [New Director Community Chats](#) are also held monthly 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](mailto:spedassistance@doe.in.gov).

#### 2026 Special Education Teacher Workshop Series

IDOE's Office of Special Education, Technical Assistance (TA) team is providing a series of free webinars for new special education teachers, or those looking for a refresher, once a month in the Indiana Learning Lab. These trainings will cover a variety of special education-related topics and will also provide an opportunity for teachers of record to ask questions. The next live webinar will be held on Tuesday, March 10, from noon to 1 p.m. ET, and will focus on manifestation determination meetings. Can't make the live session? All webinars will be recorded and uploaded to the Learning Lab for you to watch at your convenience. To watch recorded sessions or register to attend live, visit the Learning Lab [here](#). Contact IDOE's [Office of Special Education](#) with any questions.

### Special Education, Licensure, Recruitment, and Recognition

#### Keys to Literacy: No-Cost Professional Development for Early Literacy Endorsement

IDOE's Early Literacy Endorsement Professional Development 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 available [here](#) for those who are eligible, but space is limited. Participants must complete the course(s) by 11:59 p.m. ET on Monday, June 1. Those who do not finish by this date will not be eligible to re-register for this free course option in the future. Contact the [Literacy Center](#) with any questions.

#### Aspiring Special Education Leadership Institute Cohort Seven

The Indiana Council of Administrators of Special Education (ICASE) offers a one-year leadership development program designed to prepare educators for special education leadership roles to improve outcomes for all students. The Aspiring Special Education Leadership Institute (ASELI) is currently accepting [applications](#) for cohort seven. ASELI is composed of teachers, school psychologists, counselors, and principals who aspire to be special education administrators and are committed to a career in special education leadership. ASELI is not available for currently licensed special education directors. For questions, contact [specialeducation@doe.in.gov](mailto:specialeducation@doe.in.gov).

### Additional Updates, Resources, and Opportunities

#### IndianaMAC Financial Training

Financial reporting for October-December 2025 (OD25 quarter) will be open in the Fairbanks MAC system from Monday, March 2, through Friday, March 20.

MAC Financial trainings are available as webinars to meet the state's mandatory annual Financial Contact training requirement. These sessions will serve as a resource for all financial contacts, guiding how to report in the Fairbanks system. The training will include an overview of the IndianaMAC program and its quarterly processes, with a focus on financial reporting procedures, allowable costs, and the proper use of the Fairbanks system.

To receive credit for your attendance, when registering for one of the training sessions below, please enter the District/Corporation name as it appears in the Fairbanks system (displayed at the top left of the dashboard). You will need a computer with internet access to participate.

Please select one of the following links to register:

- [Tuesday, March 3, from 2 to 3:30 p.m. ET](#)
- [Thursday, March 5, from 10 to 11:30 a.m. ET](#)
- [Monday, March 9, from 2 to 3:30 p.m. ET](#)
- [Wednesday, March 11, from 10 to 11:30 a.m. ET](#)

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the webinar.

Please contact the Fairbanks Client Information Center at 877-219-1343 with any questions.

#### Collaborative Transitions to Kindergarten - Creating Community Cohorts Collection

The [Collaborative Transitions to Kindergarten: Creating Community Cohorts](#) collection in the Indiana Learning Lab brings together multiple components, providing schools and early learning programs with practical tools to build cross-sector collaboration and create a year-long, cohesive plan that aligns with the school year and strengthens teamwork across the process. This collection explains the process for both developing and implementing, based on a 2025 pilot and the Kindergarten Transition Model, and includes all necessary accompanying resources and recommended professional development for schools and early learning programs to engage in together. Contact IDOE's [Office of Student Assessment](#) with any questions.

#### SPEDucators Conference 2026

The SPEDucators Conference 2026 is a one-day professional learning experience designed for educators, administrators, and service providers committed to supporting students with diverse learning needs. Presented by SPEDActs, this conference brings together nationally recognized experts and practitioners to meet the CCLC team and address any questions you may have. Feel free to drop in and listen to the fourth Monday of each month except for July. If you know someone interested in newly subscribing to the OSE Newsletter mailing list, please direct them [here](#). Previous newsletters can be found [here](#) and in [Moodle](#). If you have any questions, please reach out to [spedassistance@doe.in.gov](mailto:spedassistance@doe.in.gov).

The conference will take place on Friday, March 6, and has both in-person and virtual [registration](#) available.

Whether you're a classroom teacher, school leader, or related service provider, this conference is designed to equip you with knowledge you can use immediately—backed by research, data, and experience.

#### Center on Community Living and Careers (CCLC) Office Hours

Join CCLC for virtual office hours every Thursday from 2:30 to 4:30 p.m. ET. Need an answer to a question about transition portfolios, IEPs, or vocational rehabilitation? This is a great opportunity to meet the CCLC team and address any questions you may have. Feel free to drop in with your question or just listen in to learn what your colleagues are asking. To learn more, visit the [CCLC website](#). Use the following [Zoom link](#) to join; registration is not necessary. Feel free to email with any questions at [cclc@iu.edu](mailto:cclc@iu.edu) or [instrc@iu.edu](mailto:instrc@iu.edu).

#### Hands in Autism Trainings

Hands in Autism® provides comprehensive, evidence-based training and resources designed for all staff to better support individuals with autism spectrum disorder (ASD) and related developmental disabilities. Trainings blend instruction, hands-on practice, coaching, and feedback grounded in research and best practices. Topics include practical strategies for assessment, behavior support, functional programming, classroom and community implementation, and individualized skill-building. Learn more about upcoming opportunities [here](#). For more information, contact [hands@iu.edu](mailto:hands@iu.edu).

#### Sharing: Sign up for this OSE Newsletter

This is the IDOE Office of Special Education (OSE) monthly newsletter intended for school, district, co-op, and interlocal staff whose role necessitates receiving detailed information about Indiana special education monitoring, finance, data, etc. The OSE Newsletter is distributed on the fourth Monday of each month except for July. If you know someone interested in newly subscribing to the OSE Newsletter mailing list, please direct them [here](#). Previous newsletters can be found [here](#) and in [Moodle](#). If you have any questions, please reach out to [spedassistance@doe.in.gov](mailto:spedassistance@doe.in.gov).



### Department News

[2/18/2026 Indiana is Leading the Way in Preparing Students for Life After Graduation](#)  
[1/30/2026 Indiana Department of Education Encourages Participation in Summer Meal Program](#)  
[1/21/2026 Gov. Braun Announces \\$15 Million to Support Career Coaching for Students Across the State](#)  
[1/14/2026 Indiana Department of Education and Notre Dame Awarded Nearly \\$10 Million Federal Grant to Strengthen Literacy](#)

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