



Dr. Jenner's Weekly Update

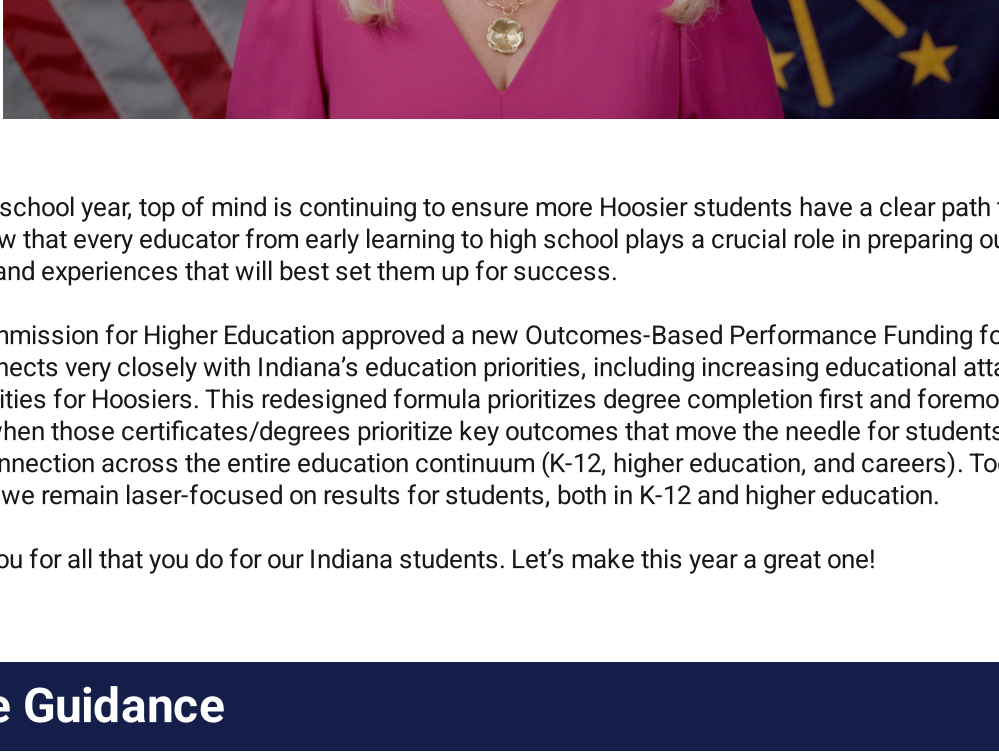
Weekly Newsletter from the Indiana Department of Education

July 24, 2026

A Message from Dr. Katie Jenner

Educators, parents and families, and students across Indiana are gearing up for another school year...with some students heading back as early as next week! As it often does, this summer has flown by. I hope everyone was able to rest, recharge, and enjoy the warm weather.

Click the photo below for a short back-to-school message!



As we enter a new school year, top of mind is continuing to ensure more Hoosier students have a clear path to a successful future. And we know that every educator from early learning to high school plays a crucial role in preparing our students with the knowledge, skills, and experiences that will best set them up for success.

This week, the Commission for Higher Education approved a new Outcomes-Based Performance Funding formula for higher education that connects very closely with Indiana's education priorities, including increasing educational attainment to maximize opportunities for Hoosiers. This redesigned formula prioritizes degree completion first and foremost, with additional funding available when those certificates/degrees prioritize key outcomes that move the needle for students. In doing so, it strengthens the connection across the entire education continuum (K-12, higher education, and careers). Together, let's continue to ensure we remain laser-focused on results for students, both in K-12 and higher education.

As always, thank you for all that you do for our Indiana students. Let's make this year a great one!

Legislative Guidance

REMINDER: 2026 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 Assessment

NEW: Universal Mathematics Screeners Upcoming August Office Hours

The two approved universal mathematics screeners, Curriculum Associates and Forefront Education, will host back-to-school office hours for administrators, instructional coaches, educators, and any additional school personnel in August. These sessions will offer schools an opportunity to learn more about the implementation of their adopted universal screener for mathematics and ask questions.

- Curriculum Associates (i-Ready) is holding back-to-school office hours on Wednesday, August 19, from 3 to 4 p.m. ET. Register for this session [here](#).
- Forefront Education (Universal Screeners for Number Sense) is holding back-to-school office hours on:
 - Thursday, August 6, from 3:30 to 4:30 p.m. ET. The passcode for the meeting is 757412. Please click [here](#) to join the meeting.
 - Friday, August 17, from 3 to 4 p.m. ET. The passcode for the meeting is 342827. Please click [here](#) to join the meeting.

Contact IDOE's [Office of Student Assessment](#) with any questions.

REMINDER: 2026 Statewide ILEARN Results

Recent legislation catalyzed both a change to the structure of ILEARN, as well as updates to the standards being assessed. State statute enabled the structure of ILEARN to be redesigned from a traditional summative test to a through-year model, which allows educators to provide targeted interventions for students who are working toward key subject area milestones. Legislation also specifically required a streamlining of standards to ensure students are honing in on essential content. When there is a structural change to an assessment or a new set of standards are assessed, new cut scores have to be adopted, which impacts the timing of results release. As a reminder, the Legislature extended the deadline to release statewide ILEARN results to September 1, 2026, due to the necessary adoption of new cut scores. Statewide ILEARN data will be released at the August State Board of Education meeting. Schools and parents will have access to student-level results in September.

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

NEW: Indiana STEM Certified Schools Info Session

The updated STEM Certified Schools guidance for the 2026-2027 school year will be released next Friday, July 31. These materials outline the expectations, process, and supports for schools interested in applying to be a STEM Certified School. IDOE will host an [informational webinar](#) on Tuesday, August 4, at 3 p.m. ET. During this webinar, IDOE staff will discuss minor updates, answer questions, and provide practical guidance on how schools may work through the process of becoming a STEM Certified School. Contact stemcertification@doe.in.gov with any questions.

NEW: Internet Safety Month Speaker Series - On-Demand Workshops

The next four workshops in the Internet Safety Month Speaker Series are now available on demand:

- [Navigating Online Harms: Knowledge is Power](#)
- [Empowering Families to Help Children Navigate Digital Technology and Social Media](#)
- [Digital Ethics & Responsible Online Behavior](#)
- [Spotting Digital Deception](#)

The final session is open for registration [here](#). Live sessions from expert speakers and curated resources in the Indiana Learning Lab align directly with [Indiana Code \(IC\) 20-30-6.1-4](#) to provide educators, families, and students internet safety education. Please contact IDOE's [Digital Learning Team](#) with any questions.

REMINDER: 2026-2027 STEM Integration Grant Informational Session

The [2026-2027 STEM Integration Grant](#) is designed to expand access to high-quality instruction across K-12 schools in order to enhance student participation and achievement in STEM disciplines. This is a competitive grant open to Indiana public school corporations, charter schools, or entities as long as they meet the following [criteria](#). Interested applicants are encouraged to attend the [virtual informational session](#) at 2 p.m. ET on Wednesday, July 29, to learn more about the grant and application process. The grant will launch next Friday, July 31. Applications are due by 11:45 p.m. ET on Friday, August 21. Please contact TLgrants@doe.in.gov with any questions.

REMINDER: Public Comment Window for K-12 Mathematics Standards and Content Connectors

Committees of K-12 and postsecondary mathematics educators convened to recommend updates to the Indiana Academic Standards and Content Connectors for K-12 Mathematics. The draft standards and content connectors are available for public comment now through 11:45 p.m. ET on Friday, August 7. Stakeholders can access and provide feedback on the draft standards and content connectors via [this Jotform](#). This input will be used to refine standards, and final recommendations will be presented to the Indiana State Board of Education later this year. Please contact IDOE's [Office of Curriculum and Instruction](#) with questions.

REMINDER: Tiered System of Supports Live Series - Starting the Year Off Strong with Data

IDOE's Office of Curriculum and Instruction will host two live webinars to support local implementation of mathematics tiered instruction. The session will focus on developing data-decision rules using a new three-guidepost data-triangulation framework with locally determined supplemental factors. Each session will also include time for participant questions. The webinar for kindergarten through grade two will take place at 3 p.m. ET on Monday, July 27. Use this [link](#) to register. The webinar for grades three through eight will take place at 3 p.m. ET on Tuesday, July 28. Use this [link](#) to register. Please contact IDOE's [Office of Curriculum and Instruction](#) with any questions.

REMINDER: Mathematics Resources Added to the Indiana Learning Lab

IDOE's Office of Curriculum and Instruction has updated [Indiana's Tiered System of Supports for Mathematics Collection](#), adding new resources including sample intervention schedules for kindergarten through grade five and grades six through eight. Two additional collections are now available in the Indiana Learning Lab:

- [Math Instructional Routines](#), which offers K-12 resources to support daily math instruction.
- [Math Lesson Planning-The Math Block](#), which provides K-12 guidance for lesson planning and instructional timing.

Please contact IDOE's [Office of Curriculum and Instruction](#) with any questions.

REMINDER: 2026-2027 High Ability Program Grant Applications

The 2026-2027 High Ability Program Grant is designed to support all public and charter school corporations in identifying and providing services for high ability students in kindergarten through 12 grade. Click [here](#) to view the recording and slides from the pre-launch webinar to learn more about the grant and application. All eligible school corporations have received a notification with the application link and their allocation amounts. Applications are due by 11:45 p.m. ET on Friday, August 14. Contact IDOE's [Office of Curriculum and Instruction: High Ability](#) with any questions.

Office of Educator Licensing

REMINDER: 2026-2027 Required School Employee Training

Following each legislative session, IDOE provides an updated list of state and federally required training for school employees. The list for the upcoming 2026-2027 school year can be found [here](#). This list does not include optional training or training required by a local school corporation or governing body.

Office of School and Community Nutrition

NEW: Farm to School Recipe Contest for Indiana High School Culinary Students

The Indiana Grown for Schools Network and Family, Career, and Community Leaders of America (FCCLA) are excited to release registration for the third annual Farm to School Recipe Contest for Indiana high school students. Students will create a recipe using either apples, to celebrate [Indiana Apple Crunch](#), or tomatoes, to celebrate [Indiana Food Day](#). The contest aims to connect students to the school meal programs and provide a specific way to celebrate Farm to School initiatives. Winning students will receive an Indiana Grown for Schools network swag bag, a highlight on social media, and more! Learn more and register [here](#). Please email SLindley@doe.in.gov for more information.

Office of School Finance

NEW: Form 9 Submission

Form 9 financial data for the period of January to June can now be submitted. The deadline for Form 9 submissions is Friday, July 31. The Form 9 application can be accessed via the [LINK Portal](#). Once in the portal, the financial administrator can navigate to the "Form 9" tile for access. Financial transparency information can also be submitted through the portal. Please contact [Form 9](#) with any questions.

Office of Special Education, English Learning, and Migrant Education

REMINDER: PowerSchool Special Programs Live Training Sessions Overview

The PowerSchool IDOE Special Programs Training Team provides dedicated, live sessions on Microsoft Teams that offer hands-on, collaborative guidance to help users of all experience levels confidently learn and navigate IDOE Special Programs. There will be four session types targeting specific training needs: Office Hours, Application of Learning, Lunch & Learn, and Administrator Master Class.

To learn more about all live PowerSchool IDOE Special Programs training sessions view the flyer [here](#).

REMINDER: New Preschool Coordinator Webinar

IDOE is pleased to invite new local education agency (LEA) preschool coordinators, and other staff who fulfill preschool coordinator duties, to a webinar covering important topics in early childhood and early childhood special education. This event will take place on Thursday, August 13, from 9 - 11:30 a.m. ET. Interested attendees can register for the event [here](#). Email specialeducation@doe.in.gov with any questions.

REMINDER: Fiscal Year (FY) 2025 Part B Grant Proportionate Share Release Request Forms
The FY 2025 Part B 611 and 619 grant proportionate share release forms are 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 28. Following the acceptance of the release form, a Part B grant budget modification request must be completed by Tuesday, 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: 2026-2027 Annual English Learner (EL) Directors Meetings Save the Dates
IDOE's English Learning team will be hosting their Annual EL Directors Meetings virtually for the 2026-2027 school year, and the dates have been set. Day one will feature content for new EL directors and will take place on [Wednesday, August 12](#). Day two is geared toward all EL directors, both new and returning, and will take place on [Wednesday, August 19](#). Both days will have morning and afternoon sessions. More details and the meeting registration links can be found on the [Indiana EL Professional Development Opportunities Calendar](#). Contact IDOE's [Office of English Learning and Migrant Education](#) with any questions.

REMINDER: ELA Praxis Vouchers Available for EL Teachers

An opportunity is now available for EL-licensed educators to apply for a voucher to take the English Language Arts: Content Knowledge (5038) Praxis assessment. This voucher covers the full cost of the exam and provides a streamlined pathway for EL teachers to add the ELA 5-12 content area to their existing license without additional coursework. ELA licensure enables EL educators to teach credit-bearing secondary ELA courses, expanding access to high-quality instruction for English learners. Complete [this Jotform](#) to request a voucher and get started. Recipients must take the assessment within six months of receiving the voucher. Contact IDOE's [Office of English Learning and Migrant Education](#) with any questions.

Office of Title Grants and Support

NEW: 21st Century Community Learning Centers (21st CCLC) Application Now Available - Applications Due Friday, September 4
Applications are now available for participation in Cohort 13 of the 21st CCLC program. The Request for Proposals (RFP) and a supplemental Cohort 13 21st CCLC Policy Manual are available on IDOE's [Out-of-School Time Programs \(OST\)](#) webpage and provide details about the application process, including application requirements and timeline. Applicants must submit an application through [EUNA](#) by 11:59 p.m. ET on Friday, September 4. While IDOE is unable to directly assist with the content of specific grant applications, any general questions about this grant opportunity should be sent to OSTProgram@doe.in.gov by Friday, August 7. General questions received will be compiled and their answers posted publicly. Next week, a pre-recorded video demonstrating how to use EUNA, explaining site navigation, and walking through the application process will be available.

Office of Educational Options and Quality

NEW: Choice Refunds

In accordance with Indiana Code 20-51-4-6, IDOE's Office of Educational Options and Quality has reconciled 2025-2026 payments made for students receiving the Choice Scholarship who were enrolled in an eligible school for less than a full school year. All schools with required refund amounts were issued letters on Friday, July 17. All refunds must be received by IDOE's Office of Educational Options and Quality by Friday, August 7. For questions regarding refund information, please email choicesschool@doe.in.gov.

REMINDER: Choice Onboarding

Onboarding is a three-hour training designed as an in-depth introduction to the Choice Scholarship Program. The training will go over the 2026-2027 payment schedule, student/school application process, special education, and more! The training will be held virtually on both Tuesday, July 28, and Monday, August 10. All who are interested in this training opportunity can register [here](#).

REMINDER: Updating Banking Information

Participating Choice schools that have updated their banking information should begin the process of submitting those changes to the Indiana State Comptroller's Office as soon as possible. If new Choice schools have not submitted their bank information, please be sure to email the forms to both accounts payable@doe.in.gov and choicesschool@doe.in.gov.

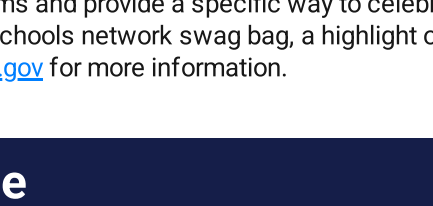
News from Our Partners

NEW FROM NEXTECH: NCIT Counselor Advising for Future-Ready Students - Guiding Students in an Artificial Intelligence (AI) Era
Intended for K-12 school counselors, career counselors, and those in student advising roles, this workshop is designed to help counselors feel confident and prepared by breaking down how AI works in clear, accessible language, and exploring where it is present across college and career pathways. Counselors will learn practical strategies to guide students toward durable skills, thoughtful decision-making, and flexible, interdisciplinary pathways in a rapidly changing workforce. The workshop will be on Monday, September 14. View more information and [register here](#). Contact [Nextech](#) with any questions.

NEW FROM CENTRAL INDIANA EDUCATIONAL SERVICE CENTER (CIESC): AI District Leadership Action Summit
CIESC, in partnership with AESA and CoSN, is launching the AI District Leadership Action Summit on Tuesday, August 25, and Wednesday, August 26, at The Pyramids in Indianapolis. This two-day workshop is designed to help K-12 leaders navigate the evolving landscape of generative AI. To maximize impact, districts are highly encouraged to attend as leadership teams, including superintendents, technology directors, and curriculum leads. Participants will receive hands-on guidance using the CoSN/CGCS K-12 Gen AI Maturity Tool to accurately assess district readiness, develop actionable implementation roadmaps, and align AI integration with instructional and operational goals. Click [here](#) to learn more and register today. Contact [Keep Indiana Learning](#) with any questions.

NEW FROM FIRST®: Certified Professional Development: August Opportunities
Join For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology (FIRST®) in Indianapolis, on Friday, August 7, to Saturday, August 8, for in-person FIRST® Certified Professional Development. Through hands-on sessions for FIRST® LEGO® League Explore & Challenge and FIRST® Tech Challenge, you'll experience learning from a student perspective, strengthen your facilitation and coaching skills, and gain practical tools to help students explore, innovate, and thrive. Can't make it to Indianapolis? Additional dates, locations, and remote sessions are available. Learn more on their [website](#) and register via [Eventbrite](#). Limited scholarships are available. Contact FIRSTProfessionalServices@firstinspires.org to learn more.

NEW FROM IN*SOURCE: Registration Now Open for Indiana Family Engagement Summit
IN*SOURCE, Indiana's Statewide Family Engagement Center, invites families, educators, school leaders, and community partners to the 2026 Indiana Family Engagement Summit on Saturday, September 12. This free statewide event, Real Life, Real Parenting: Partnering for Student Success, features an inspiring keynote, practical family engagement strategies, regional networking opportunities, and resources to strengthen family-school partnerships and support student success. Click [here](#) to register. Please email insource@insource.org for more information.



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