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Dr. Jenner's Weekly Update

Weekly Newsletter from the Indiana Department of Education

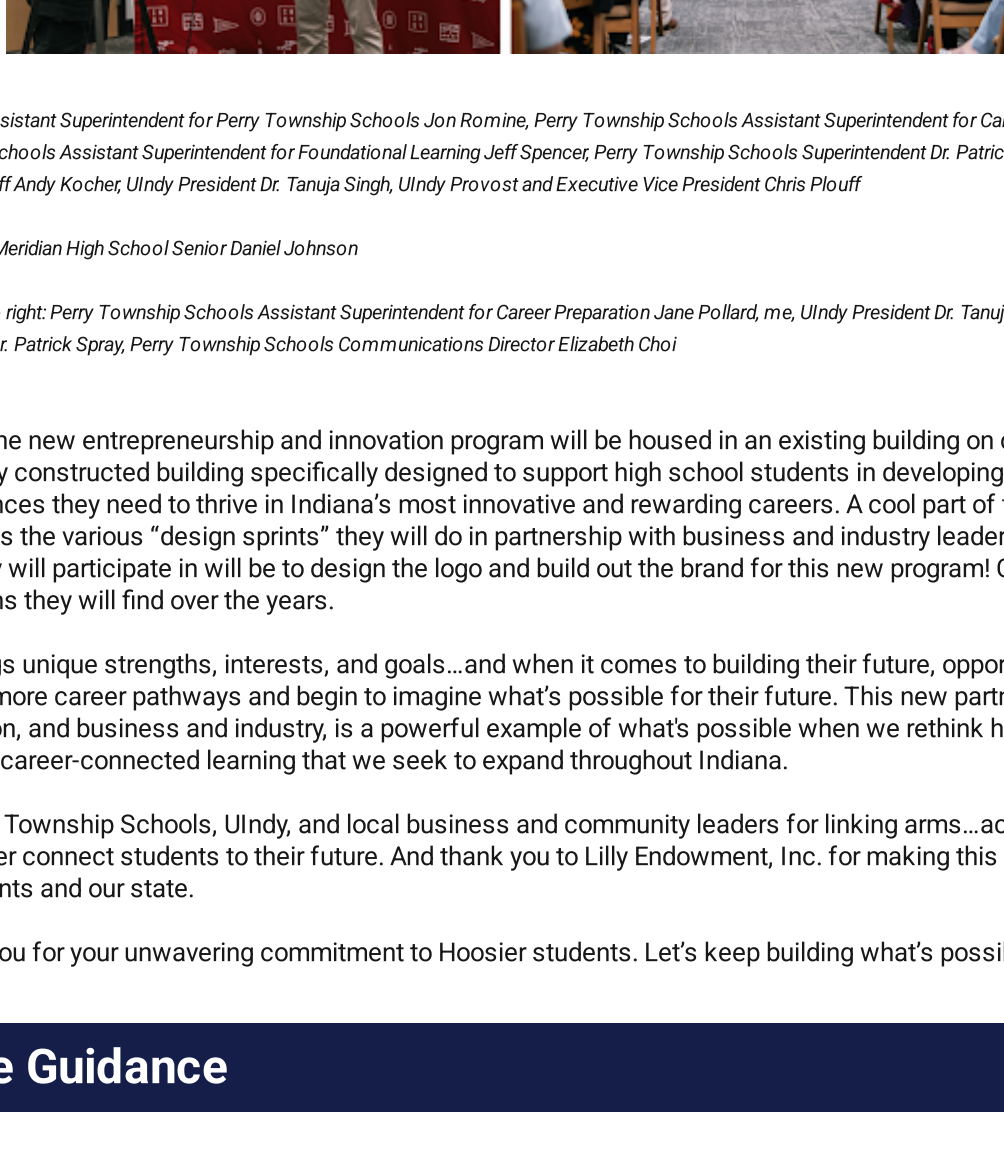
July 31, 2026

A Message from Dr. Katie Jenner

As students and educators return to the classroom, one Indiana district kicked off their first day of school with a major announcement...K-12, higher education, business and industry, and philanthropy all joining forces to build a new facility specifically designed to support students through career-connected learning.

On Tuesday, **Perry Township Schools** and the **University of Indianapolis** announced the launch of a [new entrepreneurship and innovation program](#) designed to immerse high school students in real-world learning on a local college campus. Beginning this school year, students at both Southport and Perry Meridian high schools will have the opportunity to spend part of their school day on the Uindy campus, experiencing careers firsthand, developing in-demand skills, and engaging directly with local businesses to help them brainstorm and find solutions to real-time challenges. With the help of teachers, business leaders, entrepreneurs, and industry professionals, they'll gain a better understanding of the career path they want to pursue by experiencing it first-hand.

The idea was first planted several years ago when the team at Perry Township Schools learned about the [Amp Lab](#) in **Fort Wayne Community Schools** after we visited and highlighted their work in the weekly newsletter. Since then, it has been on their dream board to create something similar for students in Indianapolis. They've visited the Amp Lab nearly a dozen times to study and adapt their model, and the two districts continue to collaborate closely as Perry Township's new entrepreneurship and innovation program progresses. This exemplifies the power of sharing our local Indiana success stories...you never know who they might inspire or how they might spark new opportunities for students.



Top photo, left to right: Assistant Superintendent for Perry Township Schools Jon Romine, Perry Township Schools Assistant Superintendent for Career Preparation Jane Pollard, Perry Township Schools Assistant Superintendent for Foundational Learning Jeff Spence, Perry Township Schools Superintendent Dr. Patrick Spray, Uindy Vice President and Chief of Staff Andy Kocher, Uindy President Dr. Tanuja Singh, Uindy Provost and Executive Vice President Chris Plouff

Bottom left photo: Perry Meridian High School Senior Daniel Johnson

Bottom right photo, left to right: Perry Township Schools Assistant Superintendent for Career Preparation Jane Pollard, me, Uindy President Dr. Tanuja Singh, Perry Township Schools Superintendent Dr. Patrick Spray, Perry Township Schools Communications Director Elizabeth Choi

For this first year, the new entrepreneurship and innovation program will be housed in an existing building on campus. Eventually, it will live in a newly constructed building specifically designed to support high school students in developing the knowledge, skills, and experiences they need to thrive in Indiana's most innovative and rewarding careers. A cool part of this student experience includes the various "design sprints" they will do in partnership with business and industry leaders. One of the first design sprints they will participate in will be to design the logo and build out the brand for this new program! Can't wait to see what other solutions they will find over the years.

Every student brings unique strengths, interests, and goals...and when it comes to building their future, opportunity starts when students can see more career pathways and begin to imagine what's possible for their future. This new partnership between K-12, higher education, and business and industry, is a powerful example of what's possible when we rethink high school...and is exactly the type of career-connected learning that we seek to expand throughout Indiana.

Thank you to Perry Township Schools, Uindy, and local business and community leaders for linking arms...across education and workforce...to better connect students to their future. And thank you to Lilly Endowment, Inc. for making this investment in the future of our students and our state.

As always, thank you for your unwavering commitment to Hoosier students. Let's keep building what's possible, together!

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 Accountability

NEW: Third-Party Accreditation Petition Window is Open
K-12 School Accreditation organizations seeking recognition by the Indiana State Board of Education (SBOE) must submit a notice of intent during the official notice window between Saturday, August 1, and Monday, August 31. After receiving the notice, IDOE will provide the petition outline and required assurances. Completed petitions for recognition for the 2027-2028 school year are due by Monday, November 30. Organizations that miss either deadline will not be considered for recognition. Per statute, IDOE will issue a recommendation to SBOE within six months of receiving a petition. Organizations already recognized by SBOE must also submit a petition for approval when making any changes to previously approved accreditation processes (e.g., provisional or foundational accreditation). Additional information, including the third-party notice of intent and third-party accreditation petition can be found on [IDOE's accreditation website](#). Contact IDOE's [Office of School Accountability](#) with any questions.

REMINDER: School and Corporation Profile Amendment Window Now Open
The school and corporation profile amendment submission window for the 2026-2027 school year opened on Wednesday, April 1, and will close on Monday, August 31. To ensure IDOE maintains accurate information, all schools and 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 Accountability](#) with any questions.

Office of Assessment

NEW: Universal Mathematics Screener Guidance for Kindergarten through Grade Two
IDOE has released the [Universal Mathematics Screener Guidance for Kindergarten through Grade Two](#) to support the implementation of the 2026-2027 mathematics legislation on universal mathematics screeners and tiered intervention. Resources include an [Individual Mathematics Plan](#) template for documenting student needs, interventions, and progress, along with strategies for intensifying Tier I instruction. An editable Individual Math Plan is available in the resources section of the guidance. Contact IDOE's Office of Student Assessment with any questions.

NEW: iLEARN Through-Year Mathematics Guidance
IDOE has released the [iLEARN Through-Year Mathematics Guidance: Using Checkpoint Data to Identify and Support All Students \(Grades 3-8\)](#) to the implementation of the 2026-2027 mathematics legislation on tiered intervention. Resources include an [Individual Mathematics Plan](#) template for documenting student needs, interventions, and progress; guidance on beginning intervention cycles prior to checkpoint 1; and strategies for [intensifying Tier I instruction](#). An editable Individual Math Plan is available in the resources section of the guidance. Contact IDOE's [Office of Student Assessment](#) with any questions.

NEW: Foundational Literacy Birth To Five Course
A new asynchronous course was designed for early childhood educators, working with children from birth to age five, to teach foundational literacy information and how it informs the application of evidence-aligned and developmentally appropriate instructional practices aligned with the science of reading. Content is connected to reflections asking educators to engage in intentional planning and preparation of meaningful literacy and learning experiences for children, as well as observing children in ways that will inform educator practice. Register for the two part course [here](#). Contact IDOE's [Office of Student Assessment](#) with any questions.

REMINDER: 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.

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

NEW: 2026-2027 STEM Integration Grant Applications Now Open
IDOE is now accepting [applications](#) for the [2026-2027 STEM Integration Grant](#). This 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](#). Included are the [slides](#) and [recording](#) of this week's information session. Applications are due by 11:45 p.m. ET on Friday, August 21. Please contact [TL.grants@doe.in.gov](#) with any questions.

NEW: 2026 AP Professional Development Grant Recipients
IDOE is pleased to announce the University of Notre Dame and the University of Southern Indiana as awardees of the [AP Professional Development Grant](#). This competitive grant for eligible higher education institutions supports professional development for AP math, science, and computer science courses, including efforts that increase student enrollment, improve student scores, elevate educator instructional practice, and promote educator retention. Contact IDOE's [Office of Curriculum and Instruction](#) with any questions.

NEW: Internet Safety - Flyer for Parents and Families
The Internet Safety Month Speaker Series in the Indiana Learning Lab is complete. All recordings and additional resources are available in the [Internet Safety Collection](#) in the Indiana Learning Lab. Schools are encouraged to send out or post this [Internet Safety Parent Flyer](#), also available in a [printer-friendly version](#). Sessions from expert speakers and curated resources in the Indiana Learning Lab align directly with IC 20-30-6.1-4 to provide educators, families, and students with internet safety education. Contact IDOE's [Digital Learning Team](#) with any questions.

NEW: High Ability Coordinator Workshop
Join IDOE for an engaging, hands-on workshop designed to support all high ability coordinators. This in-person session will provide essential guidance, practical tools, and opportunities to collaborate with peers as we strengthen consistent, statewide practices for high ability programming. All workshops will be held from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. local time. [Register here](#) for one of nine regional workshops. Contact IDOE's [Office of Curriculum and Instruction-High Ability](#) with any questions.

NEW: Effective Teaching Practices for Mathematics Resource
IDOE has created a new resource, [Effective Teaching Practices for Mathematics: IDOE Info and Resources](#), to provide Indiana mathematics educators and leaders with actionable guidance for implementing the eight effective teaching practices as defined by the National Council of Teachers of Mathematics (NCTM). This resource connects each practice to Indiana-specific resources such as professional learning courses, webinars, and more. Contact IDOE's [Office of Curriculum and Instruction](#) with any questions.

NEW: PRIME Enrollment Guidance
The [PRIME Math Alignment](#) and [New IN Diploma](#) requires essential information for schools, counselors, and families on how Prime Math integrates with Indiana's new diploma requirements for cohorts 2029 and beyond. Counselors are encouraged to use this guide during course planning and family meetings. Contact IDOE's [Office of Curriculum and Instruction](#) with any questions.

NEW: Teach Computer Science (CS) and Artificial Intelligence (AI) - On Demand Workshops
July's computer science workshops are now available on demand.

- [New Resources for NLPS 4565: Computing Foundations for a Digital Age](#)
- [Strengthening CS Instruction through Frameworks and Item Specifications](#)

The next session, "How is CS changing with AI | Expert Panel" will be on Tuesday, September 2, at 3 p.m. ET. [Register here](#) and contact IDOE's [Office of Curriculum and Instruction](#) with any questions.

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: 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 next 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. Contact IDOE [Office of Curriculum and Instruction](#) with any questions.

REMINDER: Indiana STEM Certified Schools Info Session
The updated STEM Certified Schools guidance for the 2026-2027 school year will be released today 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.

Office of Educational Options and Quality

NEW: Choice Office Hours - Building Strong Family and School Relationships Throughout the School Year
Please join us for office hours on Tuesday, August 11. There are two sessions offered, at 9 a.m. ET and 1 p.m. ET. In addition to Choice updates, we are excited to have a representative from IN*SOURCE as a special guest who will highlight practical ways to build meaningful family-school partnerships from the very beginning of the school year and sustain them throughout the year. We'll share a few proven strategies, free resources, and examples of what works, followed by an open discussion where participants can ask questions and exchange ideas with colleagues. Registration is not required, the link to join will be posted closer to the event.

REMINDER: 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 [choiceschool@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 Monday, August 10 at 8 a.m. ET. All who are interested in this training opportunity can register [here](#).

REMINDER: Reporting Summer School Data
Please see this [memo](#) regarding summer school. If you have further questions about reporting summer school data, please contact the data reporting [help desk](#). If you have other questions about the summer school program, please email [summersch@doe.in.gov](#).

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 Educator Talent and Literacy Center

NEW: Acadience Reading K-6 Updates for the New School Year
Join Acadience and IDOE's Literacy Center for Acadience Office Hours, where platform managers, coaches, teachers, school leaders, and others involved in screening can connect live to ask questions and receive support. All sessions will be recorded, and links will be made available for future viewing. Join for "[Acadience: Back to School for Teachers](#)," on Wednesday, August 5, from 9:30 to 10:30 a.m. ET. Additionally, Literacy Lab recordings are coming soon and will offer deeper guidance on using Acadience data to drive instruction. Contact IDOE's [Literacy Center](#) with any questions.

Office of School Finance

NEW: Kindergarten Enrollment Guidance for Schools and Families
Per Indiana Code, a student must be at least five years of age on August 1 of the school year in order to participate in a kindergarten program at a school corporation. However, a school corporation may enroll a student who is five by October 1, and still receive average daily membership (ADM) funding. IDOE provides the following [school enrollment guidance](#) and [Kindergarten Entrance Frequently Asked Questions \(FAQs\)](#) for more information. Families are provided with additional [Kindergarten Enrollment FAQs](#). All documents may be found on IDOE's [Kindergarten webpage](#). Contact IDOE's [Office of Student Assessment](#) with any questions.

UPDATE: Form 9 Submission Deadline Extended
Thank you for your patience as we navigated unexpected system issues in processing Form 9 submissions. Because the statutory deadline is approaching, we will notify the State Board of Accounts that our system experienced slowed processing and that we are extending the **Form 9 submission date to Friday, August 7**.

If you would like us to review your file format before submitting, we are happy to do so--this can save time and help reduce errors during the upload process.

Thank you again for your patience and cooperation. Please contact [Form 9](#) with any questions.

Office of Special Education, English Learning, and Migrant Education

NEW: English Learner (EL) Leadership In-Person Networking Day
On Wednesday, September 9, IDOE will host an in-person EL Leadership Networking and Collaboration Day. This interactive convening brings together EL administrators, teachers, and staff for collaborative discussions on pertinent EL topics of interest. Attendees will engage in facilitated conversations, share successes and challenges, and explore instructional strategies and best practices that strengthen EL programming across Indiana. This event offers an opportunity to connect with colleagues, deepen your professional network, and contribute ideas that help shape supports for multilingual learners across Indiana. Registration [via JotForm](#) is required and must be submitted by Friday, August 28. For more information, view the [Indiana EL Professional Development Opportunities Calendar](#). Contact IDOE's [Office of English Learning and Migrant Education](#) with questions.

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 2026 WIDA ACCESS and Alternate ACCESS results. Accompanying resources, such as training materials and Decision-Making Tool templates, can be found on the [IDOE 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 opened on Monday, May 11 and closes on Friday, August 21. Contact IDOE's [Office of English Learning and Migrant Education](#) with questions.

Office of Title Grants and Support

NEW: 21st Century Community Learning Centers (21st cCLC) Grant Opportunity
A presentation and accompanying recording are now available to guide you through the Cohort 13 application and out-of-school time program requirements. Also included is a step-by-step guide on how to apply for Cohort 13 in EUNA. You can view both the presentation and recording on IDOE's Out-of-School Time Programs (OST) webpage [here](#). As a reminder, applications must be submitted through [EUNA](#) by 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 [QSTProgram@doe.in.gov](#) by Friday, August 7. General questions received will be compiled and their answers posted publicly.

News from Our Partners

NEW FROM THE INDIANA COUNCIL FOR EXCEPTIONAL CHILDREN: Free Support for New Special Education Teachers
The Indiana Council for Exceptional Children, in partnership with IDOE's Office of Special Education, invites first- and second-year special education teachers to join the *New Educator Cohort*. Membership in the cohort is completely free. Participants receive research-based professional development grounded in proven practices and led by experts in the field.

The cohort includes:

- Monthly professional learning sessions
- Small-group discussions with other early-career educators
- Practical tools and resources for new special education teachers
- Support with instructional practices and High-Leverage Practices
- Access to the CEC Learning Library
- A complimentary CEC membership
- Free access to Indiana CEC workshop
- Opportunities to connect with educators from across Indiana
- Resources designed to build confidence, knowledge, and professional support

More than 500 educators from across Indiana participated last year. Please share this opportunity with new special educators and with colleagues, school leaders, or district personnel who support early-career teachers. Register [here](#) for the New Educator Cohort. Registration information is secure and will be used only for cohort-related purposes. Questions may be directed to [cec.educ@gmail.com](#).

NEW FROM THE DYSLLEXIA INSTITUTE OF INDIANA INC: Until Everyone Can Read Literacy Summit - For Older Students
Join the Dyslexia Institute of Indiana Inc for the free "Until Everyone Can Read Literacy Summit for Older Students" sponsored by the Lilly Endowment. All sessions will focus on supporting older students who struggle with reading. There will be a different speaker and topic for each session on Saturdays from 9 to 10:30 a.m. ET via Zoom.

Details for the four sessions include:

- Saturday, September 12: Dr. Anita Archer presents "Explicit Instruction – Using Opportunities to Respond as Preventative Behavior Management"
- Saturday, October 10: Dr. Julie Brown & Dr. Jen Settle on "A Whole School Approach to Improving Secondary Literacy"
- Saturday, November 14: Dr. Stephanie Stollar presents "Multi-Tier System of Support (MTSS) in the Secondary Setting"
- Saturday, December 12: Dave Stevenson, Liz Kline, and Elfreida Heibert on "Supporting Struggling Adolescent Readers"

Attendees on the live event will be eligible for prizes. You must be on the Zoom to win! For more information and to register, visit [this webpage](#). Contact [Katie Eynon](#) with any questions.

NEW FROM WABASH VALLEY EDUCATION: Smart Manufacturing and Minecraft Education Learning Experience and Hackathon
Wabash Valley Education Center (WVEC) invites educators in grades six to 12 to learn about this amazing opportunity using Minecraft Education! Students will explore the future of advanced manufacturing through immersive, game-based challenges. Students will collaborate, problem-solve, and design innovative solutions in a virtual manufacturing world while discovering how technology, automation, coding, robotics, and engineering connect to exciting careers in the smart manufacturing industry. [Register here](#). Contact [Melissa Gill](#) with any questions.

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Weekly Updates

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