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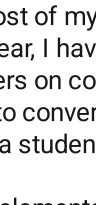


TEACHER NEWSLETTER

Monthly Updates from the Indiana Department of Education

September 14, 2026

We know that real impact for students happens at the educator-level. In fact, we have seen time and again when teacher leaders are a catalyst for positive change in schools...whether that means adding student opportunities that did not previously exist...or creating connections with higher education and employers that may bring to light career possibilities that a student would not have otherwise considered or imagined. You (our teachers!) are our difference-makers for students, and this newsletter from the Indiana Department of Education (IDOE) is dedicated to elevating your work and providing new information and resources to help you do what you do best – and that's serving Indiana's students.



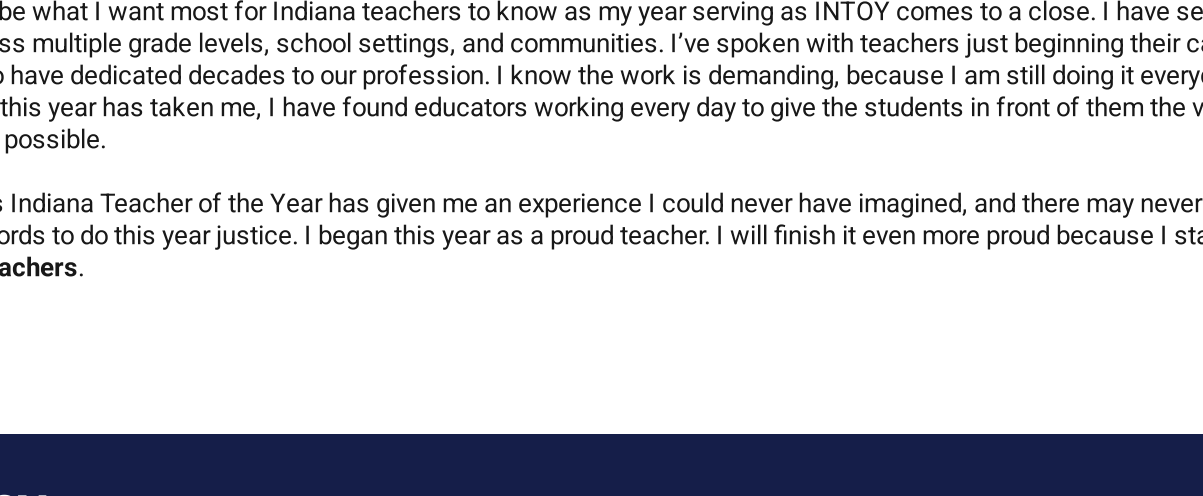
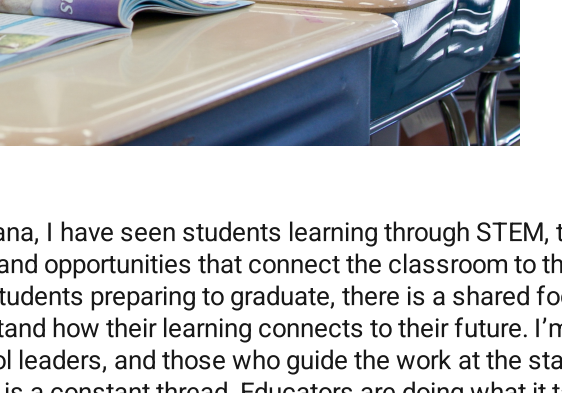
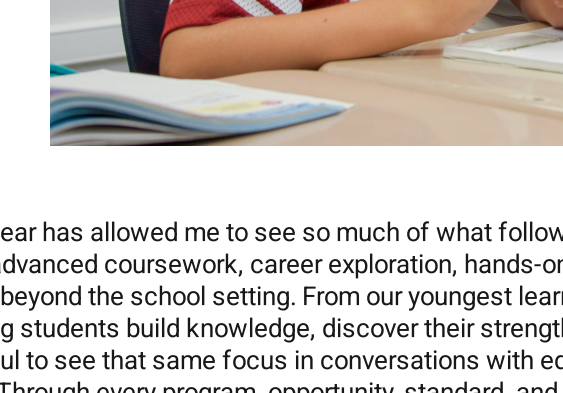
A Message from Megan Johnson, 2026 Indiana Teacher of the Year

Nearly a year ago, I stepped into the role of 2026 Indiana Teacher of the Year (INTOY) with no real way of knowing what the year ahead would hold, or how it might change my view of education.

As my year of service comes to a close, I've struggled with how to summarize an experience that is nearly impossible to put into words. I could list the places I have traveled, the people I have met, or the opportunities I never imagined were in store for me, but none of those quite explain what this year has meant to me. In the simplest of terms to offer an explanation, my view and commitment to education is much bigger now than it was a year ago.

For most of my 20 years as a teacher, I have viewed education from the place I know and love best, my elementary classroom. This year, I have visited schools across Indiana, learned alongside educators from across the country, spoken with preservice teachers on college campuses, collaborated with teams within IDOE, and had the privilege of bringing a classroom teacher's voice to conversations about education in our state. What I have seen has left me encouraged by the work happening for Indiana students.

As an elementary teacher, much of that begins with literacy. Our continued focus on evidence-based reading instruction reflects something powerful. When students can read, comprehend, communicate, and process proficiently, they gain access to everything that follows. The more I have learned about the science of reading and seen it in action across Indiana classrooms, the more convinced I have become of the strength of strong literacy instruction and the difference it can make in a student's educational experience and future.



This year has allowed me to see so much of what follows. Across Indiana, I have seen students learning through STEM, the arts, advanced coursework, career exploration, hands-on experiences, and opportunities that connect the classroom to the world beyond the school setting. From our youngest learners, through students preparing to graduate, there is a shared focus on helping students build knowledge, discover their strengths, and understand how their learning connects to their future. I'm grateful to see that same focus in conversations with educators, school leaders, and those who guide the work at the state level. Through every program, opportunity, standard, and initiative, there is a constant thread. Educators are doing what it takes to make learning happen for students.

That may be what I want most for Indiana teachers to know as my year serving as INTOY comes to a close. I have seen your work across multiple grade levels, school settings, and communities. I've spoken with teachers just beginning their careers and those who have dedicated decades to our profession. I know the work is demanding, because I am still doing it everyday, too. Wherever this year has taken me, I have found educators working every day to give the students in front of them the very best education possible.

Serving as Indiana Teacher of the Year has given me an experience I could never have imagined, and there may never be enough words to do this year justice. I began this year as a proud teacher. I will finish it even more proud because I stand among **Indiana teachers**.

-Megan



Ideas & Resources

From Teachers. For Teachers.

This Month's Pick: Indiana Learning Lab

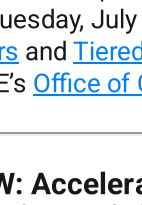
Have you explored the [Indiana Learning Lab](#)? This is a free go-to spot for professional learning, lesson ideas, expert sessions, and resources for every grade level and content area.

Megan Johnson, 2026 INTOY, highlights this resource, saying, "I really use this! I've joined speaker series, watched literacy sessions, and come back for ideas I can use in my classroom."

Here are some things Megan loves about the Learning Lab:

- **Literacy Support** - Science of Reading, Dyslexia Toolkit, and so much more!
- **Expert Explain Series** - Learn from nationally recognized educators on topics that matter.
- **Learning on Your Time** - On-demand courses, webinars, and recorded sessions.
- **Classroom Ready** - Practical strategies and resources you can use in your classroom right away.

[Learning Lab](#)



Top Stories

NEW: Indiana Literacy Rates Increase for Fifth Consecutive Year

For the fifth consecutive year, Hoosier students continue to achieve gains on the Indiana Reading Evaluation and Determination (IREAD) assessment. Following a historic jump last year, scores once again increased in 2026 –climbing 7.5 percentage points since 2021. With nearly 89% of students now reading by the end of third grade, Indiana's literacy rates have surpassed pre-pandemic levels. Learn more about these wins [here](#).

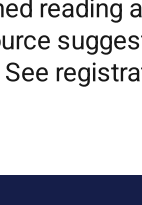
NEW: 2027 Indiana Teacher of the Year (INTOY) Top Three Announced

For more than 60 years, [the INTOY program](#) has worked to inspire, rejuvenate, and celebrate the teaching profession by recognizing outstanding teachers from across the state. The INTOY honor is a lifetime role in education, which has many opportunities to celebrate teaching and uplift the teaching profession. After receiving applications from teachers across Indiana, we celebrate the top three finalists: Amanda Ray, Samantha Willsey, and Jason Witzigreuter. Learn more about the finalists in [Dr. Jenner's Weekly Update](#).

NEW: Constitution Day Resources

Thursday, September 17, is Constitution Day—a time when schools across Indiana and across the country commemorate the signing of the U.S. Constitution, the Founding Fathers who penned this revered document, and the rights and ideals enshrined for every U.S. citizen. Find a curated set of resources in the Indiana Learning Lab, to help make Constitution Day as informative, engaging, and impactful as possible for your students. Check out some of the resources below that feature lesson plans, activities, virtual exhibits, and more!

- The U.S. Department of Education's [Constitution Day and Citizenship Day webpage](#)
- The National Constitution Center's [Constitution Day resources page](#)
- The National Archives' [Constitution Day page](#)
- The U.S. Courts' [Constitution Day and Citizenship Day page](#)
- The Library of Congress's [Constitution Day page](#)



STEM Supports

NEW: Indiana's Tiered System of Supports for Kindergarten to Grade Eight Mathematics Resources

Educators interested in responses to questions received during the recent Mathematics Tiered System of Supports Live Series: Starting the Year Off Strong with Data webinars can now access the [parking lot](#) for both sessions. The kindergarten to grade two session (held on Monday, July 27) [recording](#) and [presentation](#) are also available, and the grades three to eight session (held on Tuesday, July 28) [recording](#) and [presentation](#) are available. Additionally, the [2026-2027 K-8 Tiered Instruction Support Office Hours](#) and [Tiered System of Supports for Mathematics \(K-8\) Frequently Asked Questions \(FAQ\)](#) have been updated. Contact IDOE's [Office of Curriculum and Instruction](#) with any questions.

NEW: Accelerating Middle School Students in Mathematics

A newly recorded webinar, [Accelerating Middle School Students in Mathematics](#), is now available in the Indiana Learning Lab. This session highlights effective strategies for supporting students in grades six through eight who are ready to progress more quickly in mathematics. This resource directly supports implementation of Indiana Code (IC) 20-30-18-3, which requires schools to automatically enroll eligible students into advanced middle school mathematics courses. Additional auto-enrollment resources and details about requirements are available on IDOE's [mathematics webpage](#). Contact IDOE's [Office of Curriculum and Instruction](#) with any questions.

NEW: Math Language Routines for Everyone

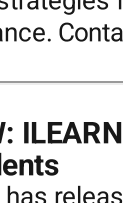
Join expert educator, Ella Herreth, on Wednesday, September 30, from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. ET for a live webinar focused on language in the mathematics classroom. The session will highlight why clear and intentional use of language matters in math instruction and share practical routines teachers can use to strengthen students' mathematical communication. Register [here](#) through the Indiana Learning Lab. Contact IDOE's [Office of Curriculum and Instruction](#) with any questions.

NEW: Effective Teaching Practices for Mathematics Resource

IDOE created a new resource, [Effective Teaching Practices for Mathematics: 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 & New Indiana Diploma](#) provides essential information for schools, counselors, educators, and families regarding how PRIME Math integrates with Indiana's new diploma requirements for cohorts 2029 and beyond. School staff are encouraged to use this guide during course planning and family meetings. Contact IDOE's [Office of Curriculum and Instruction](#) with any questions.



Indiana Literacy Center

NEW: Universal Reading Screening Guidance 2026-2027 Recorded Webinar

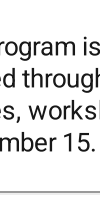
[2026-2027 Universal Reading Screening Guidance](#) is now available in the Learning Lab. This webinar includes administering universal reading screening, appropriate interventions for students, the Level I diagnostic screening process, and family communication. Please contact the [Literacy Center](#) with any questions.

NEW: Preferred Reading Screener Recordings

The first two recorded sessions for the new [Acadience K-6 Reading: Data-Driven Literacy Instruction](#) collection can be found in the Learning Lab. These sessions are part of a five-part series that offer deeper guidance on using Acadience data to drive instruction. [Decoding the Legislation: The Why Behind Acadience Reading Kindergarten to Grade Six](#) and [From Blueprint to Classroom: Launching Your Acadience Plan](#) are on-demand recordings available now, with three additional sessions coming soon. Please contact the [Literacy Center](#) with any questions.

NEW: The Reading League Indiana Presents New Series

In partnership with IDOE, The Reading League Indiana is proud to present the *2026-2027 Science of Reading: Experts Explain Series* with its focus on strengthening K-12 literacy instruction. Featuring national reading science experts, this live, virtual series showcases critical research and resources for coaches and school leaders shifting their practice towards evidence-aligned reading and writing instruction. The webinars will feature a brief presentation, followed by a Q&A, and additional resource suggestions to enhance your learning on the topic. All sessions will be recorded and shared in the Indiana Learning Lab. See registration details [here](#). Contact the [Literacy Center](#) with any questions.



Assessment Updates

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.

NEW: WIDA Core Learning Collection

WIDA's [Core Learning Collection](#) launched on Tuesday, September 1, and provides research-based professional development to strengthen instruction for multilingual learners. This newly organized series brings together WIDA's self-paced workshops, new on-demand videos, and professional learning resources. More information is available [here](#). Contact IDOE's [Office of Student Assessment](#) with any questions.

NEW: ILEARN Mathematics Checkpoint Teacher Reporting System (TRS)/Cambium Assessments, Inc (CAI) Signal Mockups

IDOE recently shared the new CAI Signal mockups that are specific to [English/Language Arts \(ELA\)](#). CAI Signal is designed for Test Administrators (TAs) to view classroom (roster) and individual student data for the ILEARN Checkpoints. New ILEARN Mathematics Checkpoint CAI Signal [mockups](#) are now available. Resources to support these updates will be available soon, including a brochure, user guides, a video series, and addendums. Contact IDOE's [Office of Student Assessment](#) with any questions.

NEW: Virtual Transition to Kindergarten Summit

Join IDOE on Wednesday, November 4, from 1 to 2:30 p.m. ET for the annual [Virtual Transition to Kindergarten Summit](#), presented in collaboration with the Indiana Family and Social Services Administration's Office of Early Childhood and Out-of-School Learning and the Head Start State Collaboration Office. You'll hear from nationally renowned expert Laura Bornfreund and a panel of Hoosier educators who will share insights, strategies, and promising practices to support strong kindergarten transitions across Indiana. Before attending, we invite you to complete IDOE's [Kindergarten Model and Self-Assessment](#) to maximize your experience. Learn more and register to attend here. Contact IDOE's [Office of Assessment](#) with any questions or for more information.

NEW: Mathematics Standards Spotlight Collections Live in the Indiana Learning Lab

The [Educator Standards Spotlights Collection](#) and the [Parent and Family Standards Spotlights Collection](#) for grades three through eight Mathematics are now available in the Indiana Learning Lab. These collections provide educator-focused videos and one-page resources aligned to four to six standards per grade level, as well as videos and one-page resources designed specifically for parents and families. Additional Mathematics and English/Language Arts videos and resources will be released on a rolling basis throughout the 2026-2027 school year and into summer 2027 to support continued student learning across Indiana. Contact IDOE's [Office of Student Assessment](#) with any questions.

NEW: Updated Indiana Assessment Frameworks with Evidence-Based Performance Level Descriptors (PLDs) Now Available

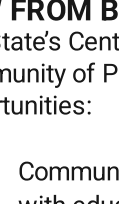
[Indiana Assessment Frameworks](#) for English/Language Arts, Mathematics, and Social Studies are updated with the new ILEARN [evidence-based PLDs](#) in the PLD maps and new grade-level maps. Most guidance documents have been updated and released, with additional updates forthcoming on a rolling basis. Documents dated August 2026 or later incorporate evidence-based PLDs and new example items. Updated Item Specifications for ILEARN Checkpoint 1 are available, and remaining resources will be released throughout the school year. This [document](#) provides an overview of the resources that have been refreshed, as well as new resources that are scheduled for rollout over the course of this school year. Contact IDOE's [Office of Student Assessment](#) with any questions.

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 - Using Checkpoint Data to Identify and Support All Students

IDOE has released the [ILEARN Through-Year Mathematics Guidance: Using Checkpoint Data to Identify and Support All Students \(Grades Three to Eight\)](#) to support 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.



Curriculum and Instruction

NEW: K-12 Social Studies Standards Correlation Guides Now Available

IDOE developed new correlation guides reflecting the 2026 Indiana Academic Standards for K-12 Social Studies alongside the 2023 Indiana Academic Standards for K-12 Social Studies. Individual correlation guides for grades K-8 and most high school courses are available on IDOE's [social studies standards webpage](#). Contact IDOE's [Office of Curriculum and Instruction](#) with any questions.



From Our Partners

NEW FROM BALL STATE: CREATE250 Professional Learning Opportunities for Indiana Educators

Ball State's Center for Economic and Civic Learning invites Indiana educators to apply for the 2026–2027 CREATE250 Community of Practice or Mentor Teacher program, a statewide civic education initiative. Educators may apply for one or both opportunities:

- Community of Practice participants receive a \$1,000 stipend to participate in year-long professional learning, collaborate with educators across Indiana, and implement civic learning in their classrooms.
- Mentor Teachers receive a \$2,000 stipend and serve in an additional leadership role supporting fellow educators through mentoring and instructional collaboration.

The program is designed to be manageable alongside full-time teaching, with flexible professional learning opportunities offered throughout the year. Participants may also be eligible for additional paid CREATE250 opportunities, including book studies, workshops, summer institutes, and immersive civic learning experiences. The application deadline is Tuesday, September 15. Apply [here](#). Contact CREATE250@bsu.edu with any questions.

NEW FROM UNIVERSITY OF NOTRE DAME PACT (Formerly AP-TIP): Next Round of Remote Teacher Collaboratives Scheduled for Tuesday, September 29

Remote Teacher Collaboratives (RTCs) are live, discussion-based professional workshops in which participants delve into high-impact practices that facilitate the instruction of subject-specific content and empower all students. All AP and dual credit English, math, and science teachers are invited to attend the 2026-2027 RTCs for their subject area. Registration for the session on Tuesday, September 29, is now open and free for all participants. Registered teachers can opt to earn professional growth plan (PGP) points for their participation. Learn more about RTCs, review the dates and topics by subject, and register online [here](#). Please contact [Nikki Chase](#) for additional assistance.

NEW FROM DYSLLEXIA INSTITUTE OF INDIANA: Until Everyone Can Read Literacy Summit for Older Students

Join us 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, with different speakers and topics for each session. All sessions will be held via Zoom from 9 to 10:30 a.m. ET. on the second Saturday of the month from September to December. Register [here](#) to reserve your free spot to learn from experts about literacy for older students. Experts include Dr. Anita Archer, Dr. Julie Brown, Dr. Stephanie Stoller, and Elfreida Heibert. Contact [Dyslexia Institute of Indiana](#) with any questions.



Additional Resources

- [Educator Licensing](#)
- [Educator Supply/Demand Marketplace](#)
- [Indiana Special Education Assisted Licensure Program \(I-SEAL\)](#)
- [Indiana Teachers of English Learners Licensure \(I-TELL\)](#)
- [Indiana STEM Educator Expansion Program \(I-STEM\)](#)
- [Indiana Learning Lab](#)
- [Indiana Literacy Cadre](#)
- [Teacher of the Year](#)

Weekly Updates

View previous weekly updates from Dr. Katie Jenner [here](#).

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

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