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INDIANA DEPARTMENT of EDUCATION

Dr. Jenner's Weekly Update

Weekly Newsletter from the Indiana Department of Education

July 17, 2026

A Message from Dr. Katie Jenner

Having a high-quality teacher in every classroom is essential to improving student outcomes. As teachers open doors of opportunity for our students, they improve not only individual lives, but also the future of our communities and our state. With a new school year quickly approaching, I want to highlight and celebrate the thousands of Hoosier educators – past, present, and future – who dedicate their lives to this challenging and purpose-filled work.

This week, Indiana made a major investment to help more aspiring teachers pay for college as part of the 10th class of Next Generation Hoosier Educators. The Indiana Commission for Higher Education awarded more than 300 Indiana students (and future teachers!) with the Next Generation Hoosier Educators Scholarship . This renewable scholarship of up to $10,000 each year, or up to $40,000 total, is designed to help make it more affordable to pursue a degree in education. In exchange, recipients commit to teach for five years at an eligible Indiana school, thus strengthening Indiana's homegrown teacher pipeline.

This is a highly sought-after scholarship every year, and in 2026, nearly 1,100 applications were submitted. Here are just a few highlights from this year's pool of applicants:

- Students from **323 Indiana high schools** applied.
- **Nearly every Indiana county** (90 of 92!) had at least one applicant.
- **70% of applicants** were Indiana high school seniors, while 30% were Indiana college students.

The competitive, academic-based selection process requires students to graduate in the top 20% of their high school class, earn a score in the 20th percentile on the SAT or ACT, or have at least a 3.0 cumulative GPA. Once they've been selected for the scholarship, students must earn a 3.0 cumulative GPA in college and complete at least 30 credit hours per year. Check out the more than 300 recipients for 2026 by clicking here.

Together, we must continue to recruit the best teachers and celebrate our current teachers who have committed themselves to serving others. It is because of their relentless work that we are seeing positive outcomes today, as well as a focus on continuous improvement in the future. While many of you certainly have local celebrations, as a state, some recent examples include: reduced chronic absenteeism; increased literacy rates; increased partnerships with higher education, as well as business and industry, helping more students leave high school with work-based learning experiences and credentials of value; and the highest graduation rate on record in 2025. Thank you to all of our educators, as well as parents and families who are working together for our students.

To this year's recipients of the Next Generation Hoosier Educators Scholarship—congratulations and welcome to our difference-making profession! And to all our Indiana educators, thank you for believing in our students and helping them discover their full potential.

As always, thank you for all that you do for our students and enjoy these final weeks of summer!

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: 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.

REMINDER: 2026-2027 Formative Assessment Grant Distribution List

Corporations and non-public schools may access the 2026-2027 Formative Assessment Grant Distribution list to review their total distribution of funds for the upcoming 2026-2027 school year. The amount allocated per student, per assessment is $8.63. Corporations and non-public schools can look for funds directly deposited on or around Wednesday, July 15, with a direct deposit memo line of "FY27 Remediation 3028-3198." In addition to reviewing the distribution list, recipients received an official notification letter on Friday, June 26, outlining their total allocation. Notification letters were sent via email to the designee listed on the submitted application. Contact IDOE's Office of Student Assessment with any questions.

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

NEW: 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.

NEW: 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 on 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.

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:

- AI, Deepfakes, and Digital Deception Awareness
- Protecting Your Digital Self
- Safe Communication in Gaming and Online Platforms
- Thinking Critically in a Digital World

Future sessions are 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.

NEW: 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.

NEW: 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: Teach Computer Science (CS) and Artificial Intelligence (AI) - Professional Development Sessions

- **New Resources and Support for NLPS 4565: Computing Foundations for a Digital Age: Thursday, July 23, from 2 to 3 p.m. ET.** Next Level Program of Studies (NLPS) course 4565 is the recommended graduation requirement course for computer science. Join IDOE's computer science specialist to learn about the implementation of the course statewide and receive instructional resources that support curriculum and planning including the new NLPS 4565 Instructional Frameworks. Register here and contact IDOE's Office of Curriculum and Instruction with any questions.
- **Strengthening K-8 CS Instruction through Assessment Frameworks and Item Specifications: Friday, July 24, from 2 to 3 p.m. ET.** Adapted from the Computer Science Professional Development Week session, join IDOE's Computer Science specialist to learn about the resources IDOE provides to align instructional activities to formative and summative assessment assessments, including the new Computer Science ILEARN Item Specifications . Understand the structure of ILEARN CS questions, align specifications to the engaging activities in your classroom, and develop model lessons and example assessment questions. Register here and contact IDOE's Office of Curriculum and Instruction with any questions.

REMINDER: High Ability Differentiation Series

Join IDOE and high ability experts this summer for the Unlocking Potential: High Ability Differentiation Series in the Indiana Learning Lab. High ability educators, coordinators, and administrators are invited to register now for the remaining three sessions in the series. Educators unable to attend the first session can now access the recording and slides . Session two, scheduled for Tuesday, July 28, from 1 to 2 p.m. ET, will address common myths about high ability learners and strategies to meet their unique needs in the classroom. Sessions three and four will provide practical differentiation resources for supporting high ability learners in grades five-eight math and K-four reading. Please contact IDOE's Office of Curriculum and Instruction: High Ability with any questions.

Office of Educator Licensing

NEW: 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 Preparation

REMINDER: Annual Principal Survey Regarding Initial License Holders Closes Saturday, August 1

Indiana Code 20-28-11.5-9 requires principals at each school corporation, including both charter and virtual schools, to complete an annual survey for any teacher employed at their school who was *initially licensed in Indiana during the previous two years* . The purpose of the survey is not to assess the individual teacher, but the quality of preparation provided by the Indiana educator preparation program the teacher completed for licensure. A survey is not needed for those who completed an out-of-state program for initial licensure. Principals can access the 2026 survey here. After selecting "Complete the Survey," it will ask for an access code which was provided to principals earlier this year. This survey will close Saturday, August 1. Please contact Renee Baratta with any questions.

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.

REMINDER: School Technology Advancement Account (STAA) Applications

School corporations may file an application for an STAA through Friday, July 17. The STAA application can be completed online and must be completed in one session. A sample application and certification page can be found in Moodle. Contact commonschoolfund@doe.in.gov with any questions.

Office of Special Education, English Learning, and Migrant Education

NEW: RoboKind Grant Recipients Announced

Recipients for the 2026-2027 RoboKind Grant have officially been announced. This grant is designed to provide funds to purchase technology and provide professional development to improve the social and behavioral skills for students with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD). Contact IDOE's Office of Special Education with questions.

NEW: Updated Discipline Resources Available

Updated discipline resource documents are now available on the Office of Special Education webpage under the "Technical Assistance" tab. The updated "Is Manifestation Determination Required?" and "Student Removal and Practices" resources are designed to support educators in navigating discipline processes and ensuring compliance with special education requirements. If you have any questions, please reach out to spedassistance@doe.in.gov.

NEW: IDOE Special Programs Access Update

IDOE Special Programs will continue recognizing 2026 staff assignments through Sunday, July 19. Beginning Monday, July 20, PowerSchool Special Programs (PSSP) will only recognize staff assignments reported in the 2027 ODS. The staff assignment of "Student Support Plans" is needed to view the PSSP tile. Complete access to PSSP is then given by the local PSSP security administrator.

Following the close of the July certification, schools are encouraged to sync their 2027 staff assignment data prior to Monday, July 20, to avoid disruption in access. Please note that new staff without a 2026 staff assignment will gain access to PSSP on Monday, July 20, as long as the 2027 ODS staff assignment has been provided. If you have any questions, please reach out to spedassistance@doe.in.gov.

NEW: Excess Cost Fiscal Minimum

Per Indiana Code 20-35-6-2, corporations must pay their portion of expenditures before state funding for excess costs can be provided. For any application submitted after Wednesday, July 1, corporations must pay a minimum of $32,796.81 per Individualized Education Program (IEP). This amount reflects the same methodology used in past years: three times the current state average per-pupil amount of $10,932.27.

NEW: 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 2025 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 any questions.

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: WIDA ACCESS 2026 Results Availability in EdData

WIDA ACCESS 2026 final results were released in WIDA AMS in June. Results have been uploaded into IDOE's data warehouse and are now available in EdData via the WIDA ACCESS Enrollment Report. Data Viewer users can view results for students who are currently enrolled in their corporation or school. Contact IDOE's Office of English Learning and Migrant Education with any questions.

REMINDER: Summer Spotlight - IDOE Special Programs for Multilingual Learners

IDOE's English Learning team will be hosting a virtual session on Monday, July 20, at 10 a.m. ET to support the continued implementation of IDOE Special Programs, the statewide platform for managing Individual Learning Plans (ILPs) and additional documentation for English learner students. Details will be shared regarding the annual rollover process to the 2026-2027 school year. Time will be reserved for live questions and answers from the field. Visit the Indiana EL Professional Development Opportunities Calendar for the meeting link. Contact IDOE's Office of English Learning and Migrant Education with any questions.

REMINDER: Early Intervention Transition Roadshow

IDOE's Office of Special Education is partnering with the Bureau of Child Development Services (First Steps) to travel around the state for joint training related to transition from Part C (First Steps) to Part B services. Events are capped at 100 attendees and guests are encouraged to attend the event in their corresponding cluster. Register for the training here and 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: Update to Home Language Survey (HLS) Amendment Process

To streamline processes and improve efficiency, all HLS amendment requests must be submitted via Jotform. Previously, amendments were submitted via fax to IDOE. Any amendments submitted via fax after this date may experience delays, as the fax inbox will no longer be monitored. Submission requirements, including the HLS Amendment Form and the original HLS, remain unchanged. Please 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 Coming Soon

Planning is underway to launch a competitive application process for eligible entities to apply for Cohort 13 of 21st CCLC funding. The Request for Proposals (RFP) will be released soon, and will include details about available funding and the full application process. General information about the 21st CCLC Program is available here. Funding is anticipated to be available to support programming starting mid-fall for applicants that are selected. Please contact OSTProgram@in.doe.gov with any questions.

REMINDER: FY 2027 Pre-Application

The FY 2027 Pre-Application due date was Wednesday, July 1. The Pre-Application is available through the Title Grants Pre-Application Collection in the Indiana Learning Lab. All instructions, forms, and submission information can be found within the collection. A registered Learning Lab account is needed to access the collection. Please contact TitleI@doe.in.gov with any questions.

REMINDER: Ed-Flex Waiver 2 and Waiver 4 Application Available Now

The following applications for ed-flex waivers are due by Friday, July 31:

- Ed-flex waiver #2, for Title I instructional paraprofessional requirement flexibility in the 2026-2027 school year, and
- Ed-flex waiver #4, for increased flexibility in Title IV funding requirements for the FFY 2026 Title IV budget application.

Applications must be submitted annually, regardless of previous approval. More information about paraprofessional requirements and the application may be found here.

For questions about ed-flex waiver #2, please contact bkronmiller@doe.in.gov.

For questions about ed-flex waiver #4, please contact TitleIV@doe.in.gov.

Office of Educational Options and Quality

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!

While this training is required for new schools, it is optional for any new personnel at existing Choice schools or for any Choice administrator who would like detailed information about the Choice Program. 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.

The required forms to complete are available in the Non-Public School Community in Moodle. After the forms are completed, please send them to both accountspayable@doe.in.gov and choiceschool@doe.in.gov.

REMINDER: Quality Counts II Cohort 4 Application Open

Charter School Program's Quality Counts II (QCII) Cohort 4 application is now open! This is a federal, competitive grant that provides funding to high quality expanding, replicating or opening schools. Click here to apply.

Indiana Commission for Higher Education

REMINDER: Career and Technical Education (CTE) Teacher Summer Bootcamp

Inspire Success, in partnership with the Commission's Office of Career and Technical Education, is hosting a one-day summer bootcamp later for new CTE teachers in years one to three. The training will focus on lesson design, classroom management, and support for all learners. Dates and locations include:

- Valparaiso, Monday, July 20
- Evansville, Wednesday, July 22
- Logansport, Friday, July 24
- Greenwood, Monday, July 27

Visit this webpage to learn more and reserve your spot.

REMINDER: 2026-2027 Next Level Programs of Study (NLPS) Review Document Now Available

The NLPS Review Document has been updated and posted for the 2026-2027 school year. This resource is updated annually and contains important information for secondary CTE courses including course competencies, educator licensing requirements, postsecondary alignment, funding information, and aligned credentials of value. This year's document has been reformatted to allow for easier updates that may be needed throughout the school year.

Notable changes for 2026-2027 include hyperlinked course competencies. Please see the first page of the document for additional notable updates. Along with other important CTE resources, the Review Document can be found on the CTE Programs of Study page. Reach out to the Commission's CTE team at CTE@che.in.gov with questions.

News from Our Partners

NEW FROM THE PACERS FOUNDATION: NBA Math Hoops

The Pacers Foundation is excited to introduce NBA Math Hoops, a free program that uses basketball to make math fun and engaging for students in grades four through eight. Flexible and easy to use, teachers can bring Math Hoops into the classroom in whatever way works best, from a one-day lesson or game time to a full curriculum or a before- or after-school club. Students also get access to fun experiences like Pacers, Fever, and Boom swag, school visits, live court-based events, and the chance to compete at Regionals at Gainbridge Fieldhouse and even represent Indiana at the Math Hoops Global Championship in New York City. Watch this video to hear from coaches, and if you are interested in bringing Math Hoops to your school for free, fill out the form linked here. Contact foundation@pacers.com with questions.

NEW FROM NEXTECH: GenAI K-12 Teacher Fellows Program

Nextech's GenAI K-12 Teacher Fellows Program is a gamified 12-week experience for Indiana educators to help them explore and use Generative AI. Through biweekly challenge sprints and virtual learning communities, participants will learn about tools including ChatGPT, Copilot, Claude, and Gemini while earning points, achievement tiers, and incentive dollars. The Nextech GenAI Teacher Fellows program was created by Dr. Justin Hodgson from Indiana University and builds on the university's Generative AI Faculty Fellows Program to empower K-12 educators in today's evolving AI landscape. Learn more and register here. Please contact Nextech with questions.

REMINDER FROM THE PASS PROJECT: Professional Development Conference

The PASS Project at Indiana State University is excited to announce the inaugural Indiana Sensory Access, Inclusion, & Learning (INSAIL) Conference, taking place Monday, September 14, and Tuesday, September 15, at the 502 East Event Centre in Carmel, Indiana. INSAIL brings together professionals who support students with sensory disabilities, including teachers of students who are blind/low vision (BLV) and deaf/hard of hearing (DHH), educational interpreters, audiologists, orientation and mobility specialists, speech-language pathologists, occupational and physical therapists, special education teachers, administrators, paraprofessionals, early interventionists, and families. The registration deadline is Monday, August 31. Learn more and register here. Contact Brittany Feilen, PASS Project Director, with any questions by phone at 812-237-8115 or email at brittany.feilen@indstate.edu.

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