



Dr. Jenner's Weekly Update

Weekly Newsletter from the Indiana Department of Education

January 16, 2026

A Message from Dr. Katie Jenner

To kick off the new year, last week, we took a look back at *just a few* of the **highlights of 2025**. The beginning of a new year is also prime time to consider our priorities and set goals for the year ahead.

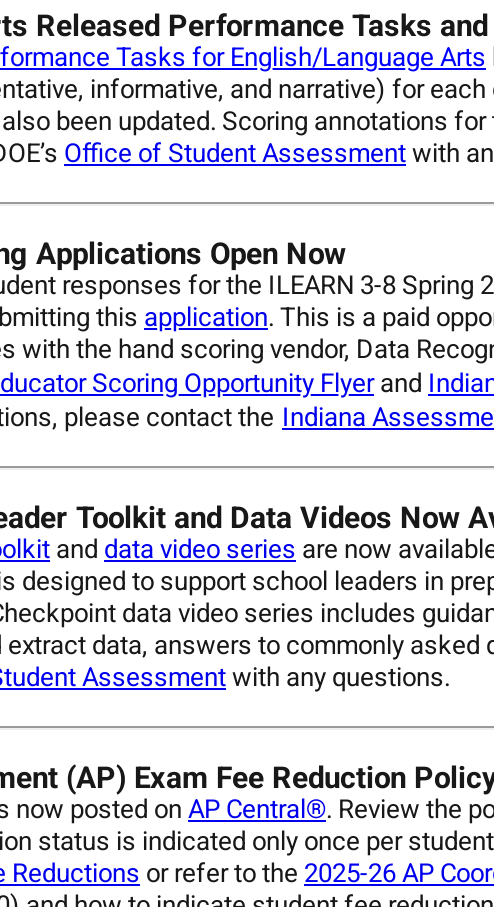
Thanks to your local leadership, Indiana has real momentum as we start this new year, and together, we're driving real progress. Our shared work continues to focus on preparing every Hoosier student with the knowledge, skills, and real-world experiences they need to be successful, regardless of their next steps after high school. This means continuing to elevate the five characteristics of an [Indiana Graduate Prepared to Succeed](#), which have guided our shared work since 2021, including....

- Academic mastery;
- Career and postsecondary readiness (credentials and experience);
- Communication and collaboration;
- Work ethic; and
- Civic, financial, and digital literacy.

As we look ahead to 2026, here are just a few of the priorities we're tackling together, which directly align to these five key characteristics that Hoosiers value most:

- **Accelerating Literacy** – We've seen significant growth, including an unprecedented nearly 5 percentage point jump in third grade literacy in 2025, as well as rising to sixth in the nation in fourth grade reading. We will build on this in 2026 by continuing to expand training in science of reading practices and implementing a new outcomes-based model for middle school literacy—where vendors are only paid when students make real gains. **Newly announced investments to support our work:**
 - **\$10 million** from Lilly Endowment to allow more schools serving students in kindergarten through fifth grade the opportunity to participate in the impactful Indiana Literacy Cadre
 - **\$5 million** from Lilly Endowment to support evidence-based reading interventions for students in grades six through eight
 - **Just announced:** Approximately **\$10 million** from the U.S. Department of Education to expand high-impact literacy tutoring in partnership with the University of Notre Dame
- **Strengthening STEM Pathways** – Through high-quality STEM education, students are developing the knowledge and skills necessary for success in life and in our most high-demand careers, including preparing students for the ever-evolving technology and artificial intelligence impacts. **Newly announced investments to support our shared work:**
 - **\$1 million** from Lilly Endowment to support the implementation of a statewide STEM Landscape Analysis across both K-12 and higher education. This landscape analysis will help us to better understand current STEM assets and opportunities, identify best practices for STEM education from around the country and world, as well as develop recommendations for improving STEM education in Indiana.
- **Expanding Student Tutoring Support** – Research has shown the value of small group, intentional tutoring to support students in accelerating their learning. Through **Indiana Learns**, families can continue to access \$1,000 tutoring grants for students who need extra help. We're also expanding free or low-cost summer learning opportunities through the **Indiana Summer Learning Labs**. **Newly announced investments to support our shared work:**
 - **\$5 million** from Lilly Endowment to support continued investment in Indiana Learns, providing microgrants for individualized, high-quality reading and math tutoring and enrichment, regardless of a family's ability to pay
 - **\$15 million** from Lilly Endowment to strategically scale and strengthen the statewide infrastructure of the Summer Learning Labs over the next two years
- **Enhancing Career Coaching** – Whether a student has goals of attending college, going straight into a career, or joining our nation's military, it is key that they are supported in exploring various opportunities, aligning their goals, and building a plan to get there. **Newly announced investments to support our shared work:**
 - **\$500,000** from Lilly Endowment to support an evaluation of career advising in the state and the design of next-generation tools and strategies to help students identify and explore a variety of careers.
- **Connecting Students to What's Next** – This year will be the first graduating cohort with students having the opportunity to earn the new Indiana diploma and readiness seals. As we push closer to statewide implementation, we're continuing – with urgency – to increase connections between schools and employers to expand work-based learning and apprenticeships and ensure the skills students gain align with credentials that hold real value in today's economy.
 - Through Indiana ILab, employers across the state continue to partner with educators to build Indiana's [new career apprenticeship pathway](#). This will allow students to meet graduation requirements while gaining meaningful real-world experience.

Again, this is just a *brief* highlight of our priorities ahead in 2026. As always, thank you for all that you do for our students. Let's keep our foot on the gas pedal in 2026!



As we prepare for the BIG game on Monday, I'd also like to share a throwback to a time when the stands may not have been as full, but the tailgates and the games were still a big part of our fall weekends. It does feel pretty awesome to WIN though... **ONE MORE GAME!**

Legislative Guidance

REMINDER: School Year 2025-2026 Teacher Appreciation Grants

Proposed House Bill 1266 includes clarifying language that FICA and TRF remain allowable expenses from the Teacher Appreciation Grant (TAG) appropriation. Each school corporation has the flexibility to determine if and how to utilize TAG distributions for FICA and TRF expenses associated with the stipends. Further guidance on the School Year 2025-2026 Teacher Appreciation Grant (TAG) can be found [here](#). The [TAG Application](#), including the [TAG Eligible Educators Report](#), is due by Friday, January 30. Questions may be directed to [TAG@doe.in.gov](#).

Office of Accountability

NEW: School Accountability Rule Update

The most recent public comment period on the future school accountability rule ended last week. Since June, hundreds of Hoosiers, including educators, parents/families, and community members have shared feedback and solution ideas as part of this collaborative process. The Indiana Department of Education (IDOE) will take time to work with stakeholders to ensure we have the best possible model for Indiana. We appreciate everyone who has been a part of this process thus far and look forward to continuing to work together!

REMINDER: 2025 Federal Accountability Now Available to Schools

2025 federal accountability was released in an embargoed form to all public schools via the [accountability portal](#) on December 19, 2025. Information regarding submitting a federal accountability audit can be found on Moodle in the School Accountability & Accreditation Community in the Federal Accountability System/Audit Information folder. The deadline to submit a federal accountability audit is Friday, January 23. Contact IDOE's [Office of Accountability](#) with any questions.

Office of Assessment

NEW: ILEARN English/Language Arts Released Performance Tasks and Student Writing Samples

[Released ILEARN Performance Tasks for English/Language Arts](#) has been updated to include one example of each writing genre (persuasive/argumentative, informative, and narrative) for each grade level. Scored student writing samples for each performance task have also been updated. Encouraging annotations for the student writing samples will be updated by the end of February. Contact IDOE's [Office of Student Assessment](#) with any questions.

NEW: ILEARN Educator Hand Scoring Applications Open Now

Educators interested in scoring writing student responses for the ILEARN 3-8 Spring 2026 administration can apply to be hand scorers through Tuesday, March 17, by submitting [this application](#). This is a paid opportunity. Educators will use rubrics and criteria to score student ILEARN responses with the hand scoring vendor, Data Recognition Corporation (DRC), and staffing partner, BCFoward. Refer to the [Indiana Educator Scoring Opportunity Flyer](#) and [Indiana Educator Scoring Opportunity FAQ](#) for more information. For any additional questions, please contact the [Indiana Assessment Help Desk](#).

NEW: ILEARN Checkpoint School Leader Toolkit and Data Videos Now Available

The ILEARN Checkpoint [School Leader Toolkit](#) and [data video series](#) are now available on the [Indiana Learning Lab](#) within the [Learning Experiences](#) section. The ILEARN Checkpoint School Leader Toolkit is a high-level series specifically designed for district and school administrators. The ILEARN Checkpoint data video series includes guidance about the available data points, a demonstration of how users can view and extract data, answers to commonly asked questions, and sample Individual Student Reports (ISRs). Contact IDOE's [Office of Student Assessment](#) with any questions.

REMINDER: 2026 Advanced Placement (AP) Exam Fee Reduction Policy

The 2026 AP Exam Fee Reduction Policy is now posted on [AP Central](#). Review the policy and identify students who are eligible for the [AP Exam Fee Reduction](#). The U.S. Department of Education is providing a high-percentage discount on AP exam fees to help students begin this process now. Visit [AP Exam Fee Reductions](#) or refer to the [2025-26 AP Coordinator's Manual, Part 1](#), for details about the (page 96). Contact IDOE's [Office of Student Assessment](#) with any questions.

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

NEW: Nominations Open for the U.S. Presidential Scholars Program

The U.S. Presidential Scholars Program recognizes outstanding high-achieving school seniors and encourages high attainment among all students. This [memo](#) outlines the required qualifications and nomination process, as well as contains links for the general, career, and technical education (CTE), and arts applications. Nominations must be submitted by 11:45 p.m. ET on Sunday, January 25, to be considered. Contact IDOE's [Office of Curriculum and Instruction](#) with any questions.

NEW: 2026 Indiana Academic Standards for World Language Now Available

The Indiana State Board of Education (SBOE) approved updated K-12 Indiana Academic Standards for World Language (Classical Modern, East Asian, French Language, American Sign Language, and K-12 American Sign Language) per the regularly scheduled standards revision cycle pursuant to Indiana Code 20-31-3-2. All updated standards are now accessible on [IDOE's Indiana Academic Standards webpage](#). IDOE extends special thanks to all educators who served as committee reviewers and the Indiana School for the Deaf for their partnership throughout this process, as well as everyone who participated in the public comment process. Contact IDOE's [Office of Curriculum and Instruction](#) with any questions.

NEW: Guidance for Schools Seeking Approval to Offer Nonstandard Courses

In response to educator feedback, this [guidance](#) document explains IDOE's Nonstandard Course Waiver Request (NCWR) process. This guidance also helps clarify the available flexibility for schools offering IDOE-approved courses and navigating the new high school diploma landscape. Contact IDOE's [Office of Curriculum and Instruction](#) with any questions.

NEW: Computer Science (CS) Education Webinar - Celebrating 10 Years and Looking to the Future

In 2026, IDOE is reflecting on a decade of growth in CS education and looking to revise the strategic state CS plan as new findings supporting the computer science graduation requirement and artificial intelligence literacy have emerged. Join IDOE's computer science specialist for a virtual presentation on the state of CS education in Indiana from 4 to 4:45 p.m. ET on Friday, January 30. Learn about progress in Indiana CS, explore upcoming CS initiatives, discover ways to support the revision of the state strategic plan, and ask questions on CS efforts around the state. Access additional details and register to attend [here](#). Contact IDOE's Office of Curriculum and Instruction with any questions.

NEW: Register for Middle School Advanced Mathematics Auto-Enrollment Office Hours

IDOE will host office hours from noon to 1 p.m. ET on Thursday, January 29, for counselors and administrators serving students in grades six through eighth. This live session will include a brief overview of the legislation related to middle school advanced mathematics auto-enrollment and the latest guidance, followed by time for Q&A. Use this [link](#) to register. Contact IDOE's [Office of Curriculum and Instruction](#) with any questions.

NEW: Middle School Advanced Mathematics Course Auto-Enrollment FAQ Updates

[Recently asked questions](#) document released on November 21, 2025, regarding middle school advanced mathematics auto-enrollment has been updated. The updated document includes additional guidance on student placement, educator licensing, course structure, high school credit policies, and key timelines for upcoming support and resources. Contact IDOE's [Office of Curriculum and Instruction](#) with any questions.

REMINDER: Advancing K-12 Mathematics for Indiana Students Overview

IDOE's Office of Curriculum and Instruction and Office of Student Assessment continue to collaborate with educators, administrators, higher education partners, and other stakeholders to advance evidence-based mathematics instruction and improve student learning at all grade levels. To keep schools and corporations informed, this [two-page overview](#) highlights current and upcoming mathematics initiatives, legislative updates, and available supports designed to ensure every student develops strong mathematical proficiency and achieves success. Contact IDOE's [Office of Curriculum and Instruction](#) with any questions.

REMINDER: Participants Needed for Indiana's K-12 Social Studies Standards Revision Committees

IDOE's Office of Curriculum and Instruction is recruiting educators and other stakeholders for review committees that will review the Indiana Academic Standards for K-12 Social Studies. Interested individuals should complete and submit [this form](#) by 11:45 p.m. ET next Friday, January 23, to be considered for this collaborative opportunity. IDOE will review all nominations and select participants based on several criteria (e.g., teaching experience, current role, student population served) to help maximize the representativeness of each committee. Contact IDOE's [Office of Curriculum and Instruction](#) with any questions.

REMINDER: PRIME Math Course Informational Webinar for Educators

Secondary mathematics educators interested in planning to teach the Postsecondary Ready Investigative Mathematics Experience (PRIME) Math course for seniors are invited to join IDOE and the Southern Regional Education Board (SREB) for a live webinar on Thursday, January 22, from 3 to 3:30 p.m. ET. This is the second of two webinars in our informational series. Register [here](#) through the Indiana Learning Lab. The first webinar recording, geared toward administrators and counselors, can be found [here](#). Contact IDOE's [Office of Curriculum and Instruction](#) with any questions.

Office of Educator Talent and the Literacy Center

NEW: New and Improved Statewide Educator Job Board Now LIVE

IDOE is excited to announce an improved [statewide educator job board](#) hosted by [Nimble](#). These improvements are designed to make it even easier for teachers to discover Indiana teaching jobs and for districts to get in front of more applicants.

With the improved job board, teachers can:

- Browse statewide teaching vacancies all in one place
- Use advanced search filters to find roles aligned with their preferences
- View key information upfront, including salary schedules and commute times
- Connect directly with principals for real conversations
- Receive personalized recommendations for schools that align with their values, strengths, and needs
- Create one Nimble profile to easily apply to schools statewide

Stay tuned for additional improvements, including a new teacher job matching app. Both the job board and the matching service are completely free for Indiana teachers and districts. Teachers can sign up by following [this link](#). Indiana districts not yet participating can click [here](#) to learn more about this free recruitment and hiring resource brought to you by IDOE and Nimble.

NEW: The Literacy Leadership Series Workshop, "Beyond Motivation: What's Really Behind Adolescent Reading Gaps"

Join IDOE for the next Literacy Leadership Series workshop, "Beyond Motivation: What's Really Behind Adolescent Reading Gaps," from 2 to 3 p.m. ET on Tuesday, January 20, with Ryan Buggy from The Reading League. Starting in January and continuing through April, this IDOE Literacy Leadership Series is a high-level series specifically designed for district and school leaders, school board members, instructional coaches, and literacy specialists. The live, on-demand virtual series in the Indiana Learning Lab will feature national reading science and systems design experts and showcase critical research and guidance, as well as resources to support practice toward evidence-based literacy instruction and building comprehensive literacy support systems for improving student outcomes. Access the [series flyer](#) for more information regarding topics and dates. Contact the [Literacy Center](#) with any questions.

NEW: Science of Reading Experts Explain Series

Join IDOE and The Reading League Indiana from noon to 1 p.m. ET on Tuesday, January 20, for the next live Experts Explain series with Dr. Steve Graham. Dr. Graham will present *Self-Regulated Text Processing Development (SRSD)*. In this session, participants will learn that self-regulated text processing development is an instructional approach for teaching students strategies for carrying out the thinking processes of writing: planning, framing text, evaluation, revising, and editing. It has been the most tested and successful of all writing approaches. This session shares an example with [you](#) and older students. All sessions will be recorded and shared in the Indiana Learning Lab. See registration details [here](#). Contact the [Literacy Center](#) with any questions.

UPDATE: Rescheduled - Monthly Data Interpretation Office Hours Acadience Reading Preferred Universal Screener

Acadience Learning, Inc. will host monthly office hours this school year to support school leaders and educators as they interpret the data from the state's preferred screener. Office hours will begin at 10:30 a.m. ET on Wednesday, January 21. Click [here](#) to join. Learn more information by visiting the [Indiana Acadience webpage](#). Contact the [Literacy Center](#) with any questions.

Office of Information Technology

UPDATE: Special Education Data Certification Wrap Up

The December 1, 2025, data certification for Special Education was successfully concluded on Friday, January 9. Our final certification percentage was 99.6% of schools signing off on their data. This is likely the highest percentage sign-off of any federal special education data certification in 2020. Thanks to all who invested so much time in learning the nuances of the new system integration with PowerSchool Special Programs. We are working with PowerSchool on a list of improvements and are also examining our Data Exchange processes so we can keep improving the efficiency of our data certification process. Wednesday, April 1, is the next census date for special education.

Office of School and Community Nutrition

NEW: Nominations for the School Food Service Employee of the Year Due Friday, February 6

Help IDOE recognize school food service employees who contribute significantly to the health and learning capabilities of students by nominating them for IDOE's 2026 School Food Service Employee of the Year Award. This award was created in 1996 to recognize the outstanding achievements of school food service employees who excel in the areas of customer service, professionalism, and teamwork. All school food service personnel except food service directors are eligible to be nominated. Submit your [nomination](#) by Friday, February 6. Contact [Suzette Hartmann](#) with any questions.

Office of School Finance

REMINDER: Form 9 Data Due Saturday, January 31

Form 9 financial data for the period of July to December 2025 can now be submitted. The deadline for Form 9 submissions is Saturday, January 31. The Form 9 application can be accessed via the [LINK Portal](#). Once in the portal, the financial administrator will navigate to the "Form 9" tile. Financial transparency information can also be submitted through the portal. Please contact [form9@doe.in.gov](#) with any questions.

REMINDER: Fiscal Year (FY) 2027 Indirect Cost Rates Application Information

The window to apply for Indirect Cost Rates is open until Tuesday, March 31. Restricted and unrestricted indirect costs rates are calculated and certified only to entities that provide Form 9 financial information. New Form 9-reporting schools are eligible to apply, but will be subject to the median rate. Please see [this memo](#) for more information. Questions can be sent to [icr@doe.in.gov](#).

Office of School Support and Transformation

REMINDER: Annual 1003 Flexibility Waivers

IDOE's Office of School Support and Transformation is now [accepting applications](#) for 1003 Flexibility Waivers. Flexibility through waivers is offered to help support schools in their design efforts to improve student performance and outcomes, improve the efficiency of school operations, and promote innovative educational approaches to student learning. Read more about this opportunity in this [memo](#) and [Flexibility Guide for Indiana's K-12 Schools](#). Applications are now open and will be accepted on a rolling basis through Friday, April 24. Submitted applications will be reviewed by the State Board of Education during the following months: March, May, and July 2026. Contact [Georgia Watson](#) with any questions.

Office of Student, School, and Family Engagement

NEW: IDOE/Indiana Department of Child Services (DCS) Point of Contact Webinars

IDOE and DCS are hosting a webinar series for local E.S.S.A., Foster and McKinney-Vento/Homeless points of contact. Registration is required, and schools are encouraged to share the webinar links with any staff who may benefit from attending.

- Wednesday, January 28, at 11 a.m. ET: [How Social Work Impacts Student Outcomes](#)
- Wednesday, February 11, at 11 a.m. ET: [Empowering Post-Graduation Success](#)
- Wednesday, February 25, at 11 a.m. ET: [Helping Youth in Non-Permanent Placement Access Support](#)
- Wednesday, March 11, at 11 a.m. ET: [Comprehensive Transition Planning](#)
- Wednesday, March 25, at 11 a.m. ET: [Specialized Approach for Student Needs](#)

NEW: 2025-2026 School Health Report

The School Health Report is open and available for public and charter schools to submit their vision and hearing screening data. Schools must enter their vision acuity data, vision MCT screening data (completed by an ophthalmologist or optometrist for students in kindergarten through first grade), and hearing screening data at the same time in order for the report to be submitted correctly. Detailed instructions for submitting the report can be found [here](#). Additional vision and hearing screening information, including guidelines, memos, and resources to assist schools with completing these screenings, can be found [here](#). Contact [Jolene Bragale](#) with any questions.

NEW: School Absentee Rate

As a reminder, per 512 IAC 1-2-2, public and accredited nonpublic schools are required to report to the local health department and KINLCOs when the absentee rate of students is equal to or greater than 20% of the enrolled students. The form for schools to report this information to IDOE can be found [here](#). An updated memo can also be found [here](#). Contact [Jolene Bragale](#) with any questions.

Offices of Special Education, English Learning, and Migrant Education

NEW: Save the Date! Virtual English Learner (EL) Leadership Meeting Wednesday, March 11

IDOE's Office of English Learning and Migrant Education will host the next virtual EL Leadership Meeting on Tuesday, March 11, from 8 a.m. to 12 p.m. ET. This meeting is intended for Indiana K-12 EL leaders and administrators and will consist of updates and interaction on timely EL topics. Registration is not required. 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.

NEW: Science of Reading for English Learners (SORELL) Office Hours

All educators of ELs are invited to join monthly statewide virtual office hours for the Science of Reading for English Learners (SORELL) initiative. These one-hour sessions are a valuable opportunity for Indiana educators to engage in collaborative discussions, seek solutions, and receive technical assistance and guidance on implementing the science of reading principles with ELs and all students. The next session will be held on Monday, January 26, from 3 to 4 p.m. ET. The meeting link and information can be found on the [EL PD Opportunities Calendar](#). Contact IDOE's [Office of English Learning and Migrant Education](#) with any questions.

NEW: New English Learner Director Professional Learning Community (PLC) on Tuesday, February 3

New directors of English learner programs are invited to join IDOE's ongoing PLC during the 2025-2026 school year. This is a place to network with other stakeholders, access timely program information, and bring questions. The next session will be held on Tuesday, February 3, at 3 p.m. ET. The meeting link and program information can be found on the [EL PD Opportunities Calendar](#). Contact IDOE's [Office of English Learning and Migrant Education](#) with any questions.

Office of Title Grants and Support

REMINDER: January Coffee Chat

Join the Title Grants and Support team for monthly Coffee Chat! Coffee Chats are on the last Thursday of each month at 10 a.m. ET. January's topic will cover equitable services. Please join us via Microsoft Teams [here](#) on Thursday, January 29, and forward this link to any necessary stakeholders within your district. Contact [Title@doe.in.gov](#) with any questions.

Indiana Commission for Higher Education

NEW: 2026-2027 Course Eligibility Memo

The following [guidance](#) on eligibility courses for the 2026-2027 school year has been developed to support implementation of the new high school diploma. This guidance provides a valuable opportunity for Indiana educators to engage in collaborative discussions, seek solutions, and receive technical assistance and guidance on implementing the science of reading principles with ELs and all students. The next session will be held on Monday, January 26, from 3 to 4 p.m. ET. The meeting link and information can be found on the [EL PD Opportunities Calendar](#). Contact IDOE's [Office of English Learning and Migrant Education](#) with any questions.

NEW: 2026-2027 FAFSA Completion Badges

The Commission is now offering three FAFSA Completion badges for high schools. Returning is the 60% completion badge for all schools that achieve the state's goal of 60% FAFSA completion for high school seniors. New this year is a 5% increase badge for all high schools that achieve a 5% increase in FAFSA filing rates compared to last year, as well as an 85% completion badge. These badges can be proudly displayed in your email signature, on your website, and across social media. You can track your school's progress on the [FAFSA Completion Dashboard](#). If you have questions, please contact your [Outreach Coordinator](#).

NEW: FAFSA Filing Events Calendar

You can find an updated calendar of FAFSA-filing events happening around the state on [LearnMoreIndiana.org](#). If your school has an event, please email details to Victoria Phair at [VPhair@che.in.gov](#).

News From Our Partners

NEW FROM THE INDIANA STATE MUSEUM: Upcoming STEAM Days and Spring Exhibits

Sign up to attend STEAM Days on Wednesday, March 4, or Thursday, March 5. Students in kindergarten through grade six can explore and discover Indiana's connections to STEAM through community exhibitors, interactive activities, and design challenges. For more information and to register, click [here](#) or contact the education department at [ismeducationprograms@indianamuseum.org](#).

Spring is also a perfect time to visit the Indiana State Museum for a field trip. Spring exhibits include *Mazes and Brain Games*, *Flora & Fauna*, and *Big & Tiny*. And don't forget that 25 students and educators receive a free field trip admission at the Indiana State Museum's Historic Sites. For more information on these exhibits, click [here](#) for more information on these exhibits, and click [here](#) to book a field trip.

NEW FROM INDIANA SPORTS CORP: Read to the Final Four Finals Weeks

Calling all third grade teachers who are participating in [Read to the Final Four](#)! We are in the final weeks before the bracket challenge that starts in February. Be sure to log your reading minutes in Beanstack to secure your place in the Division I, II, and III brackets. There are still slots to be filled in each bracket. By securing a spot in the bracket, your readers are guaranteed prizes. Possible prizes include grants for your school, basketballs, water bottles, craft supplies, a field trip to Indianapolis and the Men's Final Four celebrations, books, and so much more! Contact [community@indianasportscorp.org](#) for assistance or if you have any questions.

NEW FROM THE INDIANA COUNCIL FOR EXCEPTIONAL CHILDREN (INCEC): Spring Conference and Awards

Registration is now open for INCEC Beyond Barriers 2026 - Educating Exceptional Children, taking place on Tuesday, February 17, from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Monroe Convention Center in Bloomington. This full day of learning and connection features expert speakers and strands focused on instruction and curriculum access, collaboration and engagement, life skills, and more. Registration is available at [indiana.exceptionalchildren.org](#). This conference will also honor outstanding leaders, advocates, and students making a difference in special education. Click here to learn more about the 2026 INCEC Awards categories and to nominate someone today. Nominations are due by Friday, January 30. Questions about the conference can be directed to [incec.educ@incec.k12.in.us](#). Questions about the awards can be directed to Meghan Highfield at [meghan.highfield@incec.k12.in.us](#).

NEW FROM TEACH INDY: 2026 Educators Conference

The 2026 Teach Indy Educators Conference is coming Saturday, March 7, to the Ivy Tech Culinary and Conference Center. This year's theme, Supporting Unique Teachers to Serve Unique Students, celebrates the brilliance in every learner. All sessions are created and led by educators to ensure every session is practical, relevant, and grounded in real classroom experience. Learn more and register at [teachindy317.org](#).

NEW FROM NEXTECH: Computer Science Planning Workshops

Are you ready to create a computer science (CS) and artificial intelligence (AI) implementation plan for your district? SCRIPT (Strategic CSforALL Resource and Implementation Planning Tool) is a nationally-recognized workshop format offered across the country to help districts prepare a custom strategic plan for K-12 CS and AI education. Nectech is offering a virtual workshop on [Tuesday, February 24](#), when you'll learn how to intentionally meet and take dedicated time to approach CS and AI for your students. [Learn more about the opportunity here](#). Contact [Stephanie Trichter](#) with any questions.

NEW FROM AP-TIP: Remote Teacher Collaboratives and Spring Assessment Forum

Remote Teacher Collaboratives are live, discussion-based professional workshops where teachers delve into high-impact practices and subject-specific content. Registration for these sessions is now open and free for all participants. Participants can request documentation for one professional growth point (PGP) when completing the post-event survey. The first session of 2026 is scheduled for Tuesday, January 20.

The AP-TIP Spring Assessment Forum will also take place at the Drury Plaza Hotel Indianapolis Carmel on Wednesday, April 8, through Friday, April 10. The new iteration of the Mock Exam Reading includes specific workshops for dual credit teachers alongside AP teacher training. AP teachers will be provided access to a Mock Exam using the learning platform Applied Practice. Dual credit teachers will work with representatives from a dual credit providers in Indiana to collaborate on issues related to college-level course expectations, assessment design, and the use of assessment data to drive instruction. Teachers registered for "extended" courses may choose either the AP or dual credit version of the Spring Assessment Forum. Registration is now open through Friday, February 6.

Visit the AP TIP [website](#) to learn more about both of these opportunities. Contact [Stephanie Kucera](#) with questions.

NEW FROM IN*SOURCE: Educator Training to Support Family Engagement

Build Strong Bridges with Families: Indiana's Statewide Family Engagement Center is providing a free video workshop for educators to strengthen school-home communication. Participants are eligible to receive a free field trip to Indianapolis as part of the workshop. Learn more and sign up to complete the training on demand by clicking [here](#).

REMINDER FROM KEEP INDIANA LEARNING (a department of CIESC): Summer Conference Registration Open

Keep Indiana Learning is excited to host two incredible Hoosier educators and authors, Katie Powell and Matt Miller, as the 2026 Summer Conference speakers. Registration is now open for the 2026 Summer Conference. Free field trip admission at the Indiana State Museum's Historic Sites. For more information on these exhibits, click [here](#) for more information on these exhibits, and click [here](#) to book a field trip.

Weekly Updates

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

Stay Informed

Did you miss a message? View previous weekly emails [here](#).

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

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