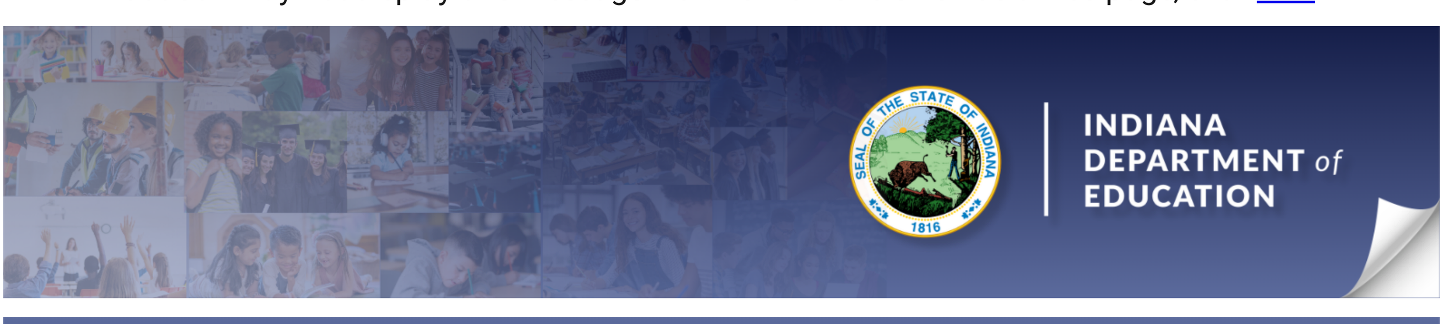
Outlook may not display this message well. To view this email as a web page, click here.



Dr. Jenner's Weekly Update

Weekly Newsletter from the Indiana Department of Education

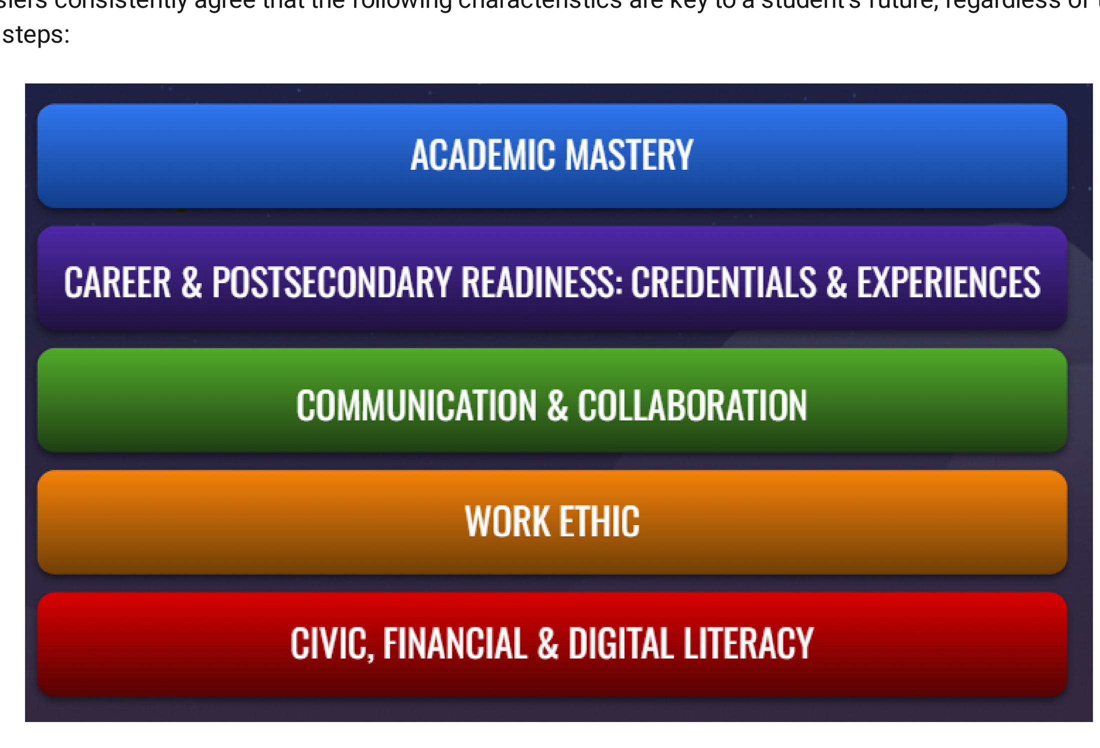
October 17, 2025

A Message from Dr. Katie Jenner

In Indiana we are committed to knowing where our students are, so that we can continue to improve–this is top of mind as we continue working together to build the future accountability model.

The impactful work we do for students across Indiana cannot be summed up in one single test score. While understanding where a student is academically and how we can continue growing their knowledge is *very* important, we know that a more complete picture includes a variety of knowledge *and* skills, as well as unique experiences (like work-based learning) for our students.

Hoosiers were loud and clear when we developed our Indiana Profile of a Graduate (which became the foundation of the Indiana Graduates Prepared to Succeed dashboard)...if we think about the approximately 70,000 students who graduate every year...their future success depends on more than just one test. In fact, Hoosiers consistently agree that the following characteristics are key to a student's future, regardless of their next steps:



In education, **we signal value through what we measure**. If these above characteristics are important to Hoosiers, then they should be reflected in all that we do, including what we measure. What gets measured, gets done.

Indiana's Portrait of a Graduate (Indiana GPS) helped to guide our new high school diploma requirements, which now focus on a variety of knowledge, skills, and experiences. And today, as we are building one connected system, we have an opportunity to do the same when it comes to school accountability.

When testifying for the U.S. Senate HELP committee last month, after important dialogue on reading, rethinking high school, and AI, U.S. Senator Bill Cassidy, who chairs the Senate HELP Committee, posed a final question...*is it possible to evaluate an N of 1?* Meaning, really looking at the **individual student-level** when thinking about accountability. In education, we typically look at an aggregate percentage...the percentage who passed the ELA assessment, math assessment, and so on.

We were already a bit over on time (it had been about 2.5 hours of testifying), so I didn't chime in on this question, but listened...all the while knowing that INDIANA was building what Senator Cassidy was asking about...a model that considers and values each individual student's abilities and progress.

With the help of hundreds of stakeholders who provided feedback over the past few months, we presented a second, more refined draft of the accountability rule this week. While two drafts are required by state law, there are not enough words to emphasize the value of public feedback in making each rule the best it can be for Indiana and our students.

As the world around us evolves, we must continue to evolve and improve in education. This proposed model represents our continued commitment to assessment and high expectations for all, while also incorporating a variety of skills and experiences that matter for a student's future. This model will allow us to maintain rigorous standards and incentivize continuous improvement, all while instilling hope that progress is possible...for every school and every student. And through a simple, intentional design, our accountability model can provide a clear roadmap – for schools, parents, and students – on how short-term progress can be achieved to maximize long-term outcomes.

So here's how you can learn more about the second draft and provide feedback!

Resources to Learn More

- Second draft overview presentation
- Second draft rule

Feedback Opportunities

- The following Jotform is now open through Monday, November 17.
- For anyone who prefers to share feedback in-person, a public hearing will also be held on Monday, November 17, at 11 a.m. in the Indiana State Library, History Reference Room. Anyone may attend the public hearing in person or view and provide comments online.

Thank you to everyone who has provided feedback thus far, and please keep the ideas flowing! Your input is essential to ensuring the future of accountability in Indiana is truly student-centered and designed for Hoosiers, by Hoosiers.

Enjoy this fall weather, and as always, thank you for all that you do for Indiana students.

Office of Accountability

REMINDER: 2025 Voluntary and Mandatory Graduation Rate Audit Closing Soon
The 2025 Voluntary and Mandatory Graduation Rate Audit will close on Friday, October 24. Every high school should review their 2025 cohort on the EdData Graduation Report. If there are students in the 2025 cohort with an incorrect cohort status, please submit those students on the voluntary graduation rate audit template. All schools are welcome to participate in the voluntary graduation rate audit, and it is the *final opportunity to request a change to the 2025 cohort*. If you are unsure if your school was selected for the Mandatory Graduation Rate Audit, please check the list of mandatory audit schools (Enrollment key: "AccountabilityCommunity"). Additional details about the 2025 Voluntary and Mandatory Graduation Rate Audit can be found here. Contact the Indiana Department of Education's Office of Accountability with any questions.

Office of Assessment

NEW: Universal Mathematics Screener Committee Interest Survey
IDOE seeks interested administrators and educators with expertise in mathematics to evaluate universal mathematics screeners for kindergarten through grade two (as defined by Indiana Code 20-32-6.5-2). Interested candidates must complete the Universal Mathematics Screener Committee Interest Survey by Friday, October 31. Completion of the interest survey is not binding. Contact IDOE's Office of Student Assessment with any questions.

NEW: Formative (Interim) Assessment Committee Interest Survey
IDOE seeks interested administrators and educators to evaluate formative (interim) assessments as outlined in IC 20-32-5.1-17 for the 2026-2027 school year. Interested candidates must complete the Formative (Interim) Assessment Committee Interest Survey by Friday, October 31. Completion of the interest survey is not binding. Contact IDOE's Office of Student Assessment with any questions.

REMINDER: Early Learning Transition Summit Registration
Learn more about IDOE's Kindergarten model and self assessment and hear from a panel of colleagues utilizing the tool on Friday, October 24, from 12:30 to 2 p.m. ET at the annual Transition Summit. The Summit is presented in collaboration with the Indiana Family and Social Service Administration's Office of Early Childhood and Out-of-School Learning and Indiana Head Start Association, and registration is available here. Contact the Office of Student Assessment with any questions.

Office of Educator Talent and the Literacy Center

REMINDER: No Cost Science of Reading Professional Development
No cost science of reading professional development is available to help current Indiana educators who teach a content area that involves literacy instruction for PK-5 students to earn the new Early LIteracy Endorsement. Registration through Keys to Literacy is available here for those who are eligible. Space is limited. Contact IDOE's Literacy Center with any questions.

REMINDER: Early Literacy Professional Development Approval Process
Educators who have completed 80-hours of professional development will complete this form to verify details of their training and upload their completion certificates. Once professional development has been approved, IDOE will issue a confirmation letter that will be used by the educator to complete the early literacy endorsement application in LVIS. Review this FAQ containing additional information about the early literacy endorsement. We will continue to add additional questions and answers to the FAQ as they arise. Contact IDOE's Literacy Center with any questions.

Indiana Education Employment Relations Board

REMINDER: Notice Regarding Teacher Appreciation Grant (TAG)
The following notice was sent earlier this week to superintendents, school board presidents, and exclusive representative presidents regarding the scope of collective bargaining. As a reminder, it is expressly prohibited under Indiana law to bargain anything related to Teacher Appreciation Grant (TAG) stipends (IC 20-29-6-4.5, IC 20-43-16-12).

Office of School Finance

NEW: Common School Loans
IDOE's Office of School Finance is now accepting applications for construction and technology common school loans from corporations, charter schools, and school corporation career and technical education schools through Friday, November 21. The application and details can be found in the Public School Finance Community in Moodle under Common School Funds → Fall. Contact IDOE's Office of School Finance with any questions.

REMINDER: Membership Conflict Petition Process
Please read this memo regarding the membership conflict petition process. Friday, November 7, is the deadline for a school corporation or charter school to file a petition. Contact IDOE's Office of School Finance with any questions.

REMINDER: Alignment of K-12 Funding with the New Indiana Diploma
Indiana's new high school diploma requirements were strategically designed to better connect students with their unique path ahead, whether they plan to continue their education after high school, go straight into a career, or serve in our Nation's military. With the increased flexibility in the diploma, new readiness seals provide students and parents with a blueprint for success to achieve their unique goals and aspirations. As part of the ongoing implementation, Indiana is aligning the K-12 funding formula to incentivize the early adoption of the new diploma, specifically through funding incentives for public schools to offer and graduate students with honors and honors plus seals in one of the three pathways. Additional information can be found here. Contact IDOE's Office of School Finance with additional questions.

REMINDER: Form 9 Application Updates
The Office of School Finance invites you to join us on Monday, October 27, from 9:30 to 10:15 a.m. to review the coming updates to the Form 9 application. The updated version will feature a refreshed design along with new, optional capabilities intended to enhance functionality and support ease of use over time. Additionally, for anyone who is unable to attend the first meeting, a duplicate meeting will be held on Wednesday, October 29, at 2 p.m. ET.

Offices of Special Education, English Learning, and Migrant Education

NEW: In-Person WIDA Workshop - Instructional Planning for the Bilingual Classroom
WIDA will be facilitating an in-person, all-day workshop on Thursday, November 20, at MSD Warren Township. This free, interactive workshop is designed for Spanish bilingual education or dual language teachers and will focus on instructional planning that will elevate the assets of their multilingual learners. This session will be delivered primarily in Spanish. Registration is required via Jotform by Friday, October 31. Space is limited, and local educational agencies (LEAs) may send up to three participants. Contact IDOE's Office of English Learning and Migrant Education with any questions.

REMINDER: Access to Special Programs for Educators of Students at the Indiana School for the Deaf and the Indiana School for the Blind and Visually Impaired
LEAs must ensure staff from the Indiana School for the Deaf (ISD) and the Indiana School for the Blind and Visually Impaired (ISBVI) have access to student IEPs within Special Programs for any student placed at one of these state-operated schools.

ISD and ISBVI have provided LEAs with staff names and assignments to support this process. If access has not yet been granted, please ensure these staff are assigned the appropriate security groups in Special Programs immediately. This will help to ensure the teams at ISD and ISVVI can fulfill their instructional and care responsibilities for students placed through case conference decisions.

REMINDER: Special Education Director Outreach Opportunities
IDOE's Office of Special Education is offering multiple support opportunities for Indiana special education directors and administrators throughout the 2025-2026 school year. Join the October sessions to learn more about Manifestation Determination meetings and parent engagement with guest speakers from Pre-ETS and INSOURCE.

- The Directors Symposium is held monthly to provide relevant policy and resource updates that support directors in strengthening compliance in their corporation's reporting. The PASS Project will also share information about the support their team offers.
- Lead and Listen sessions enable the OSE director and specialists to address submitted follow-up questions regarding the Directors' Symposium. IDOE's licensing department will also share important teacher licensing updates.
- New Director Community Chats are also held monthly for special education directors and administrators, new to their positions within the last three years, to ask questions and gain additional information following the Directors Symposium.

Specific information, including dates, times, and registration information, can be found here. Please direct any questions about director outreach opportunities to spedassistance@doe.in.gov.

Office of Title Grants and Support

REMINDER: **FFY23 Period of Allowability**
All LEAs recently received a memo regarding an extension to the FFY23 period of allowability for the following:

- Title II, Part A
- Title III, Part A
- Title IV, Part A
- Title IV, Part B

The updated encumbrance date for FFY23 is now September 30, 2026. If any FFY23 funds have not been encumbered to date, LEAs may continue to encumber funds and submit amendments through September 2026. If you have any questions regarding this extension, please contact your assigned federal grant specialist.

Please note, there is no extension on the grant cycle for FY25 Title I funds.

REMINDER: Federal Government Shutdown
IDOE will continue the normal operations of programs funded by federal grants, as the majority of IDOE's federal funding is already authorized for the 2025-2026 school year. If the shutdown lasts for an extended period, IDOE will re-evaluate the situation, along with our state-level partners, and will notify schools accordingly.

Office of Educational Options and Quality

NEW: Quality Counts II Cohort 3 Grant
In 2023, IDOE was awarded over $109 million to support a five-year project period for the second iteration of theQuality Counts Charter School Program, also known as Quality Counts II. Quality Counts is a competitive line of funding that emphasizes the opening, expansion, or replication of high-quality charter schools to ensure all students have access to a high-quality education. Click here to see the schools recently awarded by IDOE as part of cohort three!

Indiana Commission for Higher Education

NEW: Industry Certification Reimbursement
Schools will soon receive reimbursement payments for industry certification exams taken during the 2024-2025 school year. Eligible entities (school corporations, charter schools, and accredited nonpublic schools) can find the amount they are slated to receive here. As previously Indiana Commission for Higher Education's CTE team prior to Friday, September 5.

Funds will be distributed by CHE with the following subject line – "FY 2024-2025 Industry Cert Reimbursement."Schools that receive this funding will utilize Fund 3749 with the receipt account number of 3293. There are no specific restrictions on the usage of the funds.

In addition to finding total reimbursement amounts in the document linked above, high schools or CTE districts can also run a report in InTERS showing all certifications reported by their school or district for reimbursement and the reimbursement rate for each eligible certification. Instructions to run that report can be found here. Questions regarding the industry certification reimbursement process can be shared with CTE@che.in.gov.

News From Our Partners

NEW FROM AP-TIP: Annual Online Fall Conference Scheduled for the Week of October 27
This year's event will focus on *The Art & Science of Engagement*. Jennifer Fredricks, PhD will present the keynote session on Monday, October 27, from 7 to 8:30 p.m. ET.

Content sessions run from Tuesday, October 28 through Thursday, October 30, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. ET, with one hour for lunch.

- English: Tuesday, October 28
- Math: Wednesday, October 29
- Science: Thursday, October 30

Download the 2025 Fall Conference Book to view schedules and session descriptions, and register online. Contact Stephanie Kuscera with any questions.

NEW FROM PURDUE UNIVERSITY IN-MAC: Registration Now Open for the 2026 Indiana STEM Education Conference
Join fellow STEM educators on January 15, 2026, at Purdue University for a full day of learning, strategies, effective STEM lessons, and connection. Enjoy an engaging keynote from Dr. Kristen Poindexter, choose from 60+ breakout sessions, and earn professional growth points—plus lunch and refreshments are included. Register by Friday, December 11, to get the early rate. Learn more here and register now here. Contact Bill Walker with any questions.

NEW FROM PROJECT LEAD THE WAY: Demystifying AI in Education - Professional Learning Opportunity
Project Lead The Way (PLTW) has developed an immersive training experience to empower educators with the knowledge and skills to harness generative AI in the classroom. Facilitated by PLTW Master Teachers (virtually or in-person), these hands-on sessions provide a unique opportunity to explore cutting-edge tools and engage in meaningful discourse about the benefits, challenges, and ethical considerations of AI in the classroom. Generous support from donors currently allows PLTW to cover registration costs for several Indiana district cohorts. If you are interested in this opportunity to bring AI training to your teachers at no cost, contact Britt Fennessy.

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.

This email was sent by: %%Member_Busname%%
%%Member_Addr%%, %%Member_City%%, %%Member_State%%, %%Member_PostalCode%% %%Member_Country%%

Privacy Notice

Manage Preferences Unsubscribe