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November 21, 2025

A Message from Dr. Katie Jenner

There's a Bible verse that hangs on my wall and I look to frequently for inspiration: "Don't worry about anything; instead pray about everything. Tell God what you need and all that you're thankful for, and the peace of God will guard your heart and your mind" (Philippians 4:6-7).

With the roles and responsibilities that each of us have—loving and teaching kids and trying to positively impact our communities—day in and day out, we each strive to leave it better than we found it. There are days full of celebration and days when worry and anxiousness can easily sneak in...I think that's what happens when we care so much.

On the toughest days, I often take time—usually late at night or early in the morning (if it's been a rough night of sleep)—to write it down...not only my worries, but also all of the things for which I am thankful. Often, this helps to put tough situations into perspective very quickly. Today, I won't share those worries, as I'm sure you each have enough of your own, but I will share a few big things I am thankful for this year, in addition to my faith:

My Family...this includes both my home family and work family—both of whom I get to live this life with...and spend a lot of time!

The Opportunity to Serve...I truly believe we all have a purpose in this life, and I take very seriously this opportunity to serve our educators, our state, and first and foremost, our students. It is an honor to serve with each of you.

Our Nation...I'm thankful to live in America, and for all of the freedoms and opportunities that make our nation so special.

This list could go on and on, but in closing, I also want to share my gratitude for each of you. **Thank you** for your continued partnership, counsel, and for the tireless work you continue to lead for Indiana students.

Have a wonderful Thanksgiving with those you love, and a very happy holiday season!

The next edition of Dr. Jenner's Weekly Update will be sent on Friday, December 5.

Legislative Guidance

REMINDER: School Year 2025-2026 Teacher Appreciation Grant Allocations
Allocations and additional guidance for the School Year 2025-2026 Teacher Appreciation Grant (TAG) can be found [here](#). Recipients can anticipate distribution of funds before April 15, 2026. Questions may be directed to TAG@doe.in.gov.

Office of Assessment

NEW: ILEARN Biology End-of-Course Assessment (ECA) Fall 2025 Testing Window Opens Monday, December 1
The ILEARN Biology ECA Fall 2025 online testing window is open Monday, December 1, through Friday, December 19. The paper-and-pencil testing window for the ILEARN Biology Fall 2025 ECA is Monday, December 1, through Friday, December 12. Students must participate in the assessment upon completion of the high school biology course. Find information regarding participation [here](#). The Indiana Department of Education (IDOE) will also [conduct onsite monitoring visits](#) to ensure fidelity of test administration and security. Refer to the [ILEARN 2025-2026 Milestones](#) and [ILEARN Biology ECA Test Window Checklist](#) for an overview of deadlines. Contact IDOE's [Office of Student Assessment](#) with any questions.

NEW: Universal Mathematics Screener Vendor Registration
Building foundational mathematics skills early is proven to support student success in their future academic and career pathways. Indiana will publish a list of up to two preferred universal mathematics screeners for kindergarten through grade two (as defined by [Indiana Code \(IC\) 20-32-6.5-2](#)) to help schools choose high-quality tools that will monitor student achievement in early math skills. Interested vendors must review the [2026-2027 Universal Mathematics Screener Evaluation Process](#) and [register](#) universal mathematics screeners by Tuesday, December 2. The registration form does not bind a vendor to participate in the approval process, but indicates that submission is intended. Contact IDOE's [Office of Student Assessment](#) with any questions.

NEW: Timeline for Indiana-Aligned PSAT/SAT Resources
Over the course of the 2024-2025 school year, IDOE met with content experts and educators from around the state to conduct an alignment study between the SAT and Indiana Academic Standards (IAS) in English/Language Arts (ELA) and Mathematics. This research has informed additional work aimed at the development of resources that increase transparency for educators and further define college-readiness expectations for students. [This document](#) outlines plans, as well as the anticipated timeline for the future development of resources in support of the administration, understanding, and use of PSAT and SAT assessments. Contact IDOE's [Office of Student Assessment](#) with any questions.

REMINDER: Formative (Interim) Assessment Vendor Registration Due Today
[IC 20-32-5.1-17](#) gives authority to the Indiana State Board of Education to approve formative, interim, benchmark, or similar assessments for use in Indiana schools. Today, Friday, November 21, is the final day for interested formative (interim) assessment vendors seeking approval for the 2026-2027 school year to review the [2026-2027 Formative Assessment Grant Program Approval Process](#) and [register](#) formative (interim) assessments. The registration form does not bind a vendor to participate in the approval process, but indicates that submission is intended. Contact IDOE's [Office of Student Assessment](#) with any questions.

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

NEW: Middle School Advanced Mathematics Course Auto-Enrollment Guidance
Beginning with the 2026-2027 school year, Indiana law requires middle schools to automatically enroll eligible students into advanced mathematics courses. The following [memo](#) provides detailed information and guidance to school and corporation leaders on student identification, auto-enrollment implementation, and family communication. Contact IDOE's [Office of Curriculum and Instruction](#) with any questions.

NEW: Tiered System of Supports Toolkit for K-8 Mathematics - Q&A Webinar
IDOE's Office of Curriculum and Instruction will host a live webinar to provide a high-level overview of Indiana's Tiered System of Supports for K-8 mathematics. This session will cover the legislation requiring schools to implement intervention plans, introduce the Tiered System of Supports Toolkit, and allow for participant questions. The webinar will take place at 3 p.m. ET on Monday, December 8. Use this [link](#) to register. Contact IDOE's [Office of Curriculum and Instruction](#) with any questions.

NEW: AI is CS - Celebrate CSEDWeek with These Upcoming Opportunities
Mark your calendar—CSEDWeek begins Monday, December 8! Learn about the many ways to get involved by watching [this recorded webinar](#) in the Indiana Learning Lab, where IDOE is joined by representatives from Nextech and Code.org. Learn more about [CSEDWeek events](#), the Hour of AI, CSforGood, and the Presidential AI Challenge. Contact IDOE's [Office of Curriculum and Instruction](#) with any questions.

NEW: Indiana's Artificial Intelligence (AI) Collaborative
To connect Indiana educators engaged in similar work, including building educator and student AI literacy, developing local policy or guidelines, and/or implementing AI tools at the local level, IDOE's Digital Learning Team invites educators to join the Indiana AI Collaborative. Please complete [this form](#) if you are interested in learning more about the group and being a part of these conversations in the future. Contact IDOE's [Digital Learning Team](#) with any questions.

REMINDER: Public Comment Window Open Through Friday, November 28 - Indiana Academic Standards for American Sign Language (ASL)
Committees of K-12 and postsecondary ASL educators convened to recommend updates to the Indiana Academic Standards for ASL (K-12 and Secondary). The draft standards, including new foundational standards (K-5) and finger spelling and finger-reading standards (K-8), continue to be available for public comment through 11:45 p.m. ET next Friday, November 28. Use this [Jotform](#) to access both sets of draft standards and detailed instructions for participating in this process. Educator committees will consider all additional feedback and formalize for IDOE upon conclusion of the public comment period. Contact IDOE's [Office of Curriculum and Instruction](#) with any questions.

REMINDER: Indiana Tiered Systems of Supports Toolkit for K-8 Mathematics Courses
Beginning with the 2026-2027 school year, public, charter, and accredited schools serving students in kindergarten through grade eight are required to provide interventions for students not achieving grade level standards in mathematics. In an effort to support the implementation of [Indiana Code \(IC\) 20-32-6.5-3](#) as outlined in this [memo](#), three grade-banded (K-2, 3-5, and 6-8) courses have been added to the [Indiana Learning Lab](#). These courses feature sessions on implementing data-based instruction, using formative assessments, analyzing student work, engaging in collaborative conversations, utilizing high-quality, evidence-based instructional strategies, and designing, implementing, and supporting a three-tiered system of student supports. These are asynchronous courses designed to be completed in a Professional Learning Community (PLC) environment. Contact IDOE's [Office of Curriculum and Instruction](#) with any questions.

REMINDER: A Tiered Systems of Supports Toolkit Facilitator Guide
The Indiana Department of Education (IDOE) has launched the *Indiana's Tiered System of Supports Toolkit for Mathematics*—a new set of courses designed to support the implementation of a multi-tiered system of supports across three grade bands: K-2, 3-5, and 6-8, as required by [IC 20-32-6.5-3](#) and outlined in this [memo](#). Designed for use within Professional Learning Communities (PLCs), these courses are supported by a [comprehensive facilitation guide](#) provided by IDOE. The guide includes a detailed course overview and practical planning tools to help school teams effectively organize, implement, and engage with the content. Contact IDOE's [Office of Curriculum and Instruction](#) with any questions.

REMINDER: Sunsetting of CCR Bridge - Math Ready (2514) and Recommendation to Adopt PRIME Math (2595)
As a reminder, beginning with the 2026-2027 school year, IDOE will sunset course 2514 CCR Bridge - Math Ready. Schools are encouraged to transition to course 2595 Postsecondary Ready Investigative Mathematics Experience (PRIME) Math, which emphasizes conceptual understanding while covering the same core content. To offer PRIME Math during the 2026-2027 school year, the designated teacher is required to attend professional development this summer in central Indiana. Registration is available [here](#). Additional details will be shared during our upcoming webinars outlined below. Contact IDOE's [Office of Curriculum and Instruction](#) with any questions.

REMINDER: PRIME Math Course Informational Webinars
Schools interested in offering 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 Wednesday, December 3, from 3 to 4 p.m. ET. This first of two webinars is geared toward administrators and guidance counselors. A second, educator-focused webinar will take place in January. [Register here](#) through the Indiana Learning Lab. Contact IDOE's [Office of Curriculum and Instruction](#) with any questions.

REMINDER: Apply for the Mathematics High School Instructional Framework Committee
IDOE invites educators to [apply](#) for the *Mathematics High School Instructional Framework Committee*. This committee will review the instructional frameworks for Algebra I, Algebra II, and Geometry standards for additions and updates. Two in-person committee meetings will be held near Indianapolis from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. ET on January 27-28, 2026. Following the in-person work, additional asynchronous work (up to 10 hours) may occur. Committee members will receive an honorarium (based on their distance from the on-site location) and an additional per-hour stipend for their participation. Contact IDOE's [Office of Student Assessment](#) with any questions.

Office of Educator Talent and the Literacy Center

REMINDER: Keys to Literacy No Cost Professional Development for Early Literacy Endorsement
IDOE's Early Literacy Endorsement Professional Development is available to current eligible Indiana educators who hold a valid professional educator license and teach in a content area that involves literacy instruction for PK-5 students. Eligible licensed Indiana educators may participate, at no cost, in Keys to Literacy. Registration is available [here](#) for those who are eligible, but space is limited. Contact IDOE's [Literacy Center](#) with any questions.

REMINDER: Early Literacy Professional Development Approval
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 the professional development has been approved, IDOE will issue a confirmation letter that will be used by the educator to support the early literacy endorsement application in LVIS. An FAQ with additional information regarding the early literacy endorsement can be found [here](#), and we will continue to add additional questions and answers as they arise. Contact IDOE's [Literacy Center](#) with any questions.

REMINDER: Monthly Data Interpretation Office Hours Acadience Reading Preferred Universal Screener
Acadience Learning, Inc. will host monthly office hours this fall 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, December 10, 2025. Click [here](#) to join. Learn more information by visiting the Indiana Acadience webpage [here](#). Contact IDOE's [Literacy Center](#) with any questions.

Office of School Finance

NEW: Indirect Costs Training
IDOE's Office of School Finance will host an indirect costs training on Tuesday, December 9, at 9 a.m. ET. The training will go over the fundamentals of indirect costs, including purpose, applying, proper use of your indirect cost rate, and monitoring. The training will also include revised guidance regarding the reimbursement process. We recommend any staff members who work with indirect cost within a school corporation attend. Register for the training [here](#). Questions can be sent to icr@doe.in.gov.

REMINDER: Common School Loans
Today, Friday, November 21, is the final day for corporations, charter schools, and school corporation career and technical education schools to submit applications for construction and technology common school loans. 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.

Offices of Special Education, English Learning, and Migrant Education

NEW: Early Childhood Placement Office Hours
IDOE will host an open office hour to answer questions about early childhood placement, early childhood alternative placement, and Least Restrictive Environment on Tuesday, December 9, from 11 a.m. to 12 p.m. ET. Join the office hour via this [link](#), ask any questions you may have, and consider reviewing the [Spread the Word: Preschool Environments](#) prior to the office hour. Please direct any questions to osemonitoring@doe.in.gov.

NEW: I AM Assurances Survey Required from All Local Educational Agencies (LEAs)
LEAs are required to complete an [I AM Assurance Survey](#) as part of the state and federal monitoring process. The survey is used to ensure LEAs understand the [justification criteria](#) and indicate if they may exceed the 1.0% participation cap in the upcoming assessment administration. All LEAs must complete this brief survey by Friday, December 5. Contact IDOE's [Office of Special Education Technical assistance team](#) with questions.

NEW: PowerUp Series with Power School
IDOE's Office of Special Education, in partnership with Power School, will be hosting the PowerUp Series. The topic for Tuesday, December 9, is progress monitoring. These engaging sessions are designed exclusively for Indiana educators and administrators to explore the latest features and processes in the new Indiana Special Programs platform. Click [here](#) to register.

REMINDER: Virtual English Learner (EL) Leadership Meeting Date Changed to Thursday, December 4
The next virtual EL Leadership Meeting will be held on Thursday, December 4, from 1 to 2:30 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 [EL Professional Development \(PD\) Opportunities Calendar](#) for the meeting link. Contact IDOE's [Office of English Learning and Migrant Education](#) with any questions.

REMINDER: Special Education Director Outreach Opportunities
The IDOE Office of Special Education is offering multiple support opportunities for Indiana special education directors and administrators throughout the 2025-2026 school year. Join the November sessions to learn more about State Complaints and Child Count with guest speakers from IDOE's licensing department and the PASS Project.

- The [Directors Symposium](#) is held monthly to provide relevant policy and resource updates that support directors in strengthening compliance in their corporation's reporting.
- [Lead and Listen](#) sessions enable the OSE director and specialists to address [submitted follow-up questions](#) regarding the Directors Symposium.
- [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

NEW: Title Grants and Support Quarterly Meetings
IDOE's Title Grants and Support Team continues to host quarterly meetings to provide updates on federal grant programs. The quarterly meetings are hosted on Thursdays at 10 a.m. ET, and will be held on the following dates:

- Thursday, December 4
- March 5, 2026
- May 7, 2026

Click [here](#) to access the Thursday, December 4, meeting. Contact Title@doe.in.gov with any questions.

Indiana Commission for Higher Education

NEW: Final Day for Indiana529 Contest
Today is the final day for students to enter Learn More Indiana's 2025 Indiana529 contest! The contest is open to all Indiana students in grades K-12. Five winners will be selected to receive a \$1,000 contribution to an Indiana529 Savings Plan account. In order to participate, students must complete a [short survey](#). Students do not need to have an Indiana529 account to be a recipient of the account deposit. Parent or guardian contact information is required to claim the contribution because the account must be opened by someone 18 years or older. For questions, contact akuehr@cche.in.gov.

REMINDER: 21st Century Scholars Automatic Enrollment for the 2030 and 2031 cohorts
The first round of 21st Century Scholars Automatic Enrollment for the 2030 and 2031 cohorts (current 8th and 7th graders, respectively) has been completed for the 2025-2026 academic year. School staff with access to their district's middle schools, housing 7th- and 8th-grade students, can utilize [ScholarTrack](#) to see enrolled students.

[Letters](#) to the Class of 2030 informing parents/guardians of their student's enrollment will be sent via mail in spring 2026. Questions about the 21st Century Scholars program can be sent to your region's Outreach Coordinator. You can find a map of regions and their contact information on our [Contact Us page](#).

News From Our Partners

NEW FROM AP-TIP: 11th Round of Remote Teacher Collaboratives Scheduled for Thursday, December 11
During Remote Teacher Collaboratives, teachers explore practical, high-impact instructional practices, share ideas and resources, and join a network of educators around the state. Topics for December are coming soon. [Register online](#) now. Contact [Stephanie Kucsera](#) with any questions.

NEW FROM CSL FOR ALL: Hour of AI Activity Catalog Now Available
The Hour of AI is designed to help students, educators, and families take their first step in understanding and creating with AI. A new [activity catalog](#) is now live, featuring 100+ activities designed to make AI accessible, hands-on, and fun for students and adults. Contact the [Hour of AI](#) with any questions.

NEW FROM INDIANA ASSOCIATION FOR THE GIFTED (IAG): Annual Conference
IAG's Annual Conference will be held on Monday, December 15, through Tuesday, December 16, in Indianapolis. Charting New Pathways: Navigating Future Directions for Gifted Learners will feature inspiring sessions led by state and national leaders in gifted education, expert guidance from practitioners, and meaningful networking opportunities with fellow educators. Click [here](#) for additional details and to register.

REMINDER FROM ADVANCED PLACEMENT TEACHER INVESTMENT PROGRAM (AP-TIP): Cohort 14 Application Open
The application to Cohort 14 of AP-TIP is now open. Cohort 14 is open to AP and dual credit math, science, and English teachers. Read more about how AP-TIP partners with teachers and view the program results with the [2026-2027 Program Introduction](#). Learn more and [apply online](#). Applications are due by Friday, December 19. Contact [Stephanie Kucsera](#) with any questions.