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Dr. Jenner's Weekly Update

Weekly Newsletter from the Indiana Department of Education

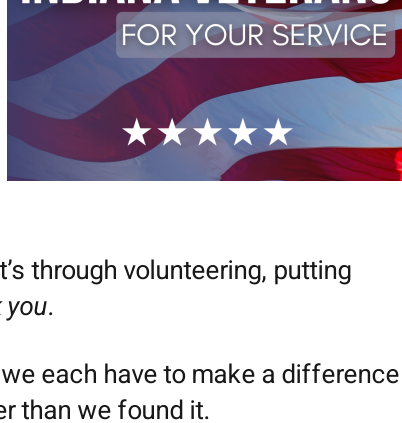
November 7, 2025

A Message from Dr. Katie Jenner

Many of our schools have been hard at work preparing Veterans Day celebrations that honor the men and women who have served our nation.

These meaningful, patriotic displays show our veterans that we remember their sacrifice, unite our communities, and teach our students valuable lessons about what it means to be an American.

Veterans Day is a reminder to all of us of the true meaning of **service** and **sacrifice**...putting others first and standing up for ideals that are bigger than any one individual...such as liberty, opportunity, and civic duty...no matter the cost.



It reminds us of the importance of **giving back**...whether that's through volunteering, putting together care packages, or even a simple, yet sincere, *thank you*.

And it also reminds us of our **civic responsibility**...the ability we each have to make a difference and to leave our communities, our state, and our nation better than we found it.

This year, we are once again recognizing Indiana schools for their significant display of commitment to students and families connected to our nation's military. This year's Indiana Purple Star Schools were selected in collaboration with the Indiana National Guard and include nearly 100 schools that have been newly-designated or have renewed their designation. A full list is available [here](#).

At our Purple Star Schools, honoring and celebrating our service members and military-connected families is a part of their culture. In doing so, our schools are making life a little easier for those who give so much and instilling in our students a deep sense of appreciation and civic pride.

Thank you to our school leaders and educators across Indiana for the role you play in bringing communities together to honor our veterans and supporting our military families throughout the year. And to our veterans, whose courage and selflessness has shaped our nation, *thank YOU*.

Legislative Guidance

NEW: 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: Indiana's New Good Cause Exemption Dashboard

A new public dashboard provides transparent reading data at the state-, corporation-, and school-level. In 2025, Indiana achieved an unprecedented nearly five percentage point increase in third grade literacy rates. Statewide, 73,500 of Indiana's third grade students – or 87.3 percent – demonstrated proficient reading skills on the IREAD assessment. The new dashboard shows 2024-2025 IREAD pass rates for all school types, data on Good Cause Exemptions (GCE), and promotion status. Click [here](#) to view Indiana's new IREAD Good Cause Exemption Dashboard.

NEW: PSAT/NMSQT and SAT School Day November Office Hours

The PSAT/NMSQT and SAT School Day November Office Hours session will be held on Wednesday, November 12, from 3 to 4 p.m. ET. Register for the session [here](#). General topics will include using PSAT and SAT School Day data to inform instruction, including College Board and Indiana Department of Education (IDOE) resources. Corporation Test Coordinators (CTCs), School Test Coordinators (STCs), educators, and additional testing staff are invited to attend.

REMINDER: Register for Upcoming College Board Training Opportunities

School staff involved in PSAT and SAT School Day testing can register for College Board training opportunities to support test administration and post-testing data use. In-person workshops to support PSAT data use and to prepare STCs for the SAT School Day will be held from Wednesday, December 3, through Thursday, December 11. PSAT workshops will be held from 9 to 11:30 a.m. local time. SAT workshops will be held from 12:30 to 3 p.m. local time. Registration links can be found below:

- Wednesday, December 3: Evansville [PSAT | SAT School Day](#)
- Thursday, December 4: Sellersburg [PSAT | SAT School Day](#)
- Friday, December 5: Greenwood [PSAT | SAT School Day](#)
- Tuesday, December 9: Merrillville [PSAT | SAT School Day](#)
- Wednesday, December 10: Fort Wayne [PSAT | SAT School Day](#)
- Thursday, December 11: Indianapolis [PSAT | SAT School Day](#)

Virtual options are also available for those unable to attend in-person:

- Thursday, November 20, 10 to 11 a.m. ET: [Fall 2025 PSAT Data Workshop Webinar](#)
- Friday, December 12, 10 to 11:30 a.m. ET: [SAT School Day 2026 STC Workshop #1 Webinar](#)

Contact [College Board](#) with any questions.

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

NEW: A Framework of Support - Meeting Students' Needs Using a Tiered Approach

Beginning in 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. To support the implementation of [Indiana Code \(IC\) 20-32-6.5-3](#), as outlined in the accompanying [memo](#), IDOE's Office of Curriculum and Instruction has recorded a [webinar](#) that provides an overview of IDOE's Theory of Action for Learning and Assessment and the Tiered System of Supports for Mathematics. In addition to a detailed walkthrough of both models, the webinar includes recommendations for Tier I, Tier II, and Tier III. Contact IDOE's [Office of Curriculum and Instruction](#) with any questions.

NEW: Public Comment Window Now Open - 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), are now available for public comment through 11:45 p.m. ET on 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: 2025-2026 STEM Integration Grant

IDOE is pleased to announce the 63 recipients of the [2025-2026 STEM Integration Grant](#). This competitive grant opportunity supports schools and other eligible entities in providing opportunities to develop and implement STEM learning opportunities aligned with [Indiana's Priorities for STEM Education](#) and the [Indiana Academic Standards for Integrated STEM](#). Review [this memo](#) for a list of the winners. A virtual kickoff meeting occurred for recipients on Wednesday, November 5th, for which [a recording](#) and [slides](#) are available. Grant recipients need to complete the [required survey](#) by Friday, December 5. Contact IDOE's [Office of Curriculum and Instruction](#) with any questions.

REMINDER: AI is CS - IDOE Partnering with Nextech to Celebrate CSEdWeek!

CSEdWeek begins Monday, December 8. This year, IDOE is partnering with Nextech to empower students through Code.org's *Hour of AI* and help educators use computer science as a home for AI literacy and education. Join us for a session in the [Indiana Learning Lab](#) on Thursday, November 13, at 4 p.m. ET to learn about opportunities to bring AI literacy to your school and integrate AI instruction into your computer science classroom. See a schedule of opportunities during CSEdWeek [here](#). Contact IDOE's Office of Curriculum and Instruction with questions.

REMINDER: Accelerate Your School's IT Success With Ivy Tech On-Demand Video Available

The [on-demand recording](#) from Michael Bottorff, Vice President, School of Information Technology at Ivy Tech Community College is available for viewing in the Indiana Learning Lab. The session provides a clear and concise overview of Indiana's dual credit IT career and technical education (CTE) pathways (i.e., Next Level Programs of Study). The session dove deeper into credentials of value aligned with these pathways, ways to establish IT pathways and dual credit courses in your school and/or corporation, how they meet Indiana's new diploma requirements, how they provide unique college and career opportunities for your students, and how they can bolster your IT support team through work-based learning. Contact IDOE's [Office of Digital Learning](#) with questions.

Office of Educator Talent and the Literacy Center

NEW: Science of Reading Experts Explain Series

Join IDOE and The Reading League Indiana from noon to 1 p.m. ET on Tuesday, November 18, for the next live Experts Explain series with Dr. Janel Bowman. Dr. Bowman will present *Transcription: Handwriting, Spelling, and Keyboarding*. In this session, participants will dive into research and best practices on the important foundational writing skills of handwriting, spelling, and keyboarding. All sessions will be recorded and shared in the Indiana Learning Lab. See registration details [here](#). Contact IDOE's [Literacy Center](#) with any questions.

REMINDER: I-STEM Round #2 is Now Open

IDOE and the Central Indiana Education Services Center are partnering for a second round of Indiana's STEM Educator Expansion initiative, which aims to increase the number of STEM teachers. The initiative is open to current educators and those interested in a Transition to Teaching program. Those eligible may receive free tuition and books, allowing them to complete the I-STEM program at no cost. Additional stipends are also available to incentivize employment in rural districts, etc. Learn more and register [here](#). Contact [Susie Coleman](#) at CIESC 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 and are scheduled for Wednesday, November 19, and 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 and Community Nutrition

NEW: Greenhouses, Crop Covers, and Other Season Extension Tools for Schools

A panel discussion on Greenhouses, Crop Covers, and Other Season Extension Tools for Schools will be on Tuesday, November 19, from 4 to 5 p.m. ET. Panelists will share their experience with greenhouses and discuss how schools can utilize them while working with what they have to extend their growing season. Registration on [The Learning Lab](#) is now available. Participants will need to create a Learning Lab account to access the live training registration.

Office of School Finance

REMINDER: 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.

Office of Student Pathways and Opportunities

REMINDER: Alternative Education New Program Proposal Submissions for the 2026-2027 School Year

The submission window for Alternative Education New Program Proposals for operation in the 2026-2027 school year that do not have a currently approved alternative education program is now open through March 31, 2026. The proposal link can be found [here](#), under Documents and Resources. Currently approved alternative education programs that wish to establish a new alternative education program should consult with the IDOE's Alternative Education Team for guidance. Contact IDOE's [Alternative Education Team](#) with any questions.

Offices of Special Education, English Learning, and Migrant Education

NEW: WIDA Workshop on Nurturing Speaking Growth

IDOE's English Learning team is hosting a virtual two-part workshop, facilitated by WIDA, titled *Nurturing Speaking Growth*. The sessions are designed for Indiana K-12 educators interested in exploring classroom practices that promote oral language development. This is an interactive workshop in which participants will engage in meaning-making activities that provide ways to nurture students' speaking growth. Participants will be asked to speak and share ideas with colleagues during the interactive webinars. Part one will take place on Thursday, December 4, and part two will take place on Thursday, December 11. Both sessions will occur from 3 to 5 p.m. ET. Registration is required via [this Jotform](#) by Friday, November 21, as space is limited. Please contact englishlearners@doe.in.gov with questions.

REMINDER: IDOE Special Programs for Multilingual Learners Office Hours

IDOE's Office of English Learning and Migrant Education is hosting a virtual office hours session on Thursday, November 13, at 10 a.m. ET to provide support for IDOE Special Programs, the new statewide platform to house Individual Learning Plans (ILPs) and additional documentation for multilingual learners. In this session, updates to EL-related features of the system will be reviewed, along with time for questions 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: 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

REMINDER: Upcoming 2025-2026 Comparability Report Deadline

Local educational agencies (LEAs) must complete the 2025-2026 Comparability Report on or before Saturday, November 15. All LEAs received a memo on Monday, October 20, with instructions for completing the 2025-2026 Comparability Report. The process for completing the Comparability Report is the same as in previous years, and will be completed in the Title I App Center. All LEAs are required to submit the 2025-2026 Comparability Report. Contact your Title I grants specialist with any questions.

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.

Indiana Commission for Higher Education

NEW: Career and Technical Education (CTE) Career Guide

A new version of the CTE Career Guide is now available [here](#). Information in the guide includes:

- A spread for each Career Cluster (Advanced Manufacturing, Digital Technology, and other) with available CTE pathways, data on the demand/wages of related occupations, etc. employer spotlights from around the state.
- Information on Indiana's new high school diploma, including pages dedicated to graduation requirements, work-based learning, and credentials of value
- Postsecondary resources provided through the Commission, such as the 21st Century Scholars program and the Pre-Admissions initiative

This is a great resource for counselors and other school personnel, particularly in working with students and families to showcase the opportunities available through CTE. Each Area CTE Director will be provided a small installment of paper copies for their CTE District later this semester. Schools or other organizations interested in purchasing additional copies can order those now. Information on ordering can be [found here](#), including pricing details. Questions can be directed to CTE@che.in.gov.

REMINDER: Work-Based Learning (WBL) Reporting

As shared in [other communications](#), secondary WBL hours and other details related to WBL experiences can be reported in [InTERS](#). Hours can be input at any time of the year, and the hours will be recorded for students. This information should be reported for both CTE students and non-CTE students.

During the 2025-2026 school year, WBL hours must be reported in InTERS to count toward WBL requirements within relevant diploma seals. Guidance on WBL reporting can be [found here](#), and questions can be shared with CTE@che.in.gov. Schools that may not currently utilize InTERS and need access can reach out to InTERS Specialist Jedd Vance at JVance@che.in.gov.

News From Our Partners

NEW FROM KEEP INDIANA LEARNING: Two Sessions for Instructional Coaches and Administrators

Join Keep Indiana Learning for two impactful, half-day sessions on Thursday, December 11, structured exclusively to support instructional coaches and administrators in their vital roles. Effective language is paramount to driving instructional improvement. The morning session will focus on using appropriate language during data-driven coaching conversations to facilitate teacher reflection and growth. The afternoon session will pivot to the characteristics of highly effective feedback language, providing key strategies to motivate teachers toward a learning-oriented mindset. These in-person workshops can be taken individually or together. Elevate your ability to support and motivate your teaching staff! [Learn more and register today](#). Contact [Keep Indiana Learning](#) with questions.

NEW FROM THE INDIANA STATE MUSEUM AND HISTORIC SITES: Paid K-12 Teacher Survey

The Indiana State Museum and Historic Sites, in partnership with the Science Museum of Minnesota, is offering a \$10 gift card to those who fill out a brief survey about teacher needs in Indiana. This survey is a final follow up to a survey conducted last spring as part of a study exploring how museums can provide resources, programs, and content to better support teachers, students, and schools in Indiana. Any current K-12 teacher in Indiana is eligible to participate, even if you participated last spring. [Click here to complete the survey](#). The survey is open through Monday, November 24, and each respondent will receive a \$10 gift card. Contact Elena Tsakakis with any questions.

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