

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

February 27, 2026

A Message from Dr. Katie Jenner

By the time many of you read this, we will (hopefully!) be in the final hours of the 2026 legislative session and one step closer to that celebratory moment when the legislature adjourns "sine die." Next week, we'll recap some of the highlights of this session, but today, I'd like to talk about another celebration coming up next week... **Read Across America Day!**

Most of us have a favorite book from when we were young kids. Do you remember yours? Some of you may have to think harder than others...in fact, I had to pause and really think back.

When I was a little girl, I remember my dad would sometimes read to me before bedtime, and he always read the book "Heidi." As a little girl, it was the thickest book I'd ever seen. From seam to seam, it was probably three inches thick! My dad is a slow talker, and an even slower reader. Many nights at bedtime, I fell asleep to the sound of my dad talking about the young girl who lived in the Swiss Alps with her grandpa. I've never asked my dad why he chose that book, but I like to think maybe it's because even in Heidi's circumstances, she kept love and doing for others top of mind.

As schools across our state and nation prepare to celebrate **Read Across America Day on Monday**, my hope is that every young child has a favorite book, or one that they'll be able to reference back to well into adulthood. So on Monday and *everyday*, I challenge all of us to read to the children in our lives and do everything we can to encourage a lifelong love of reading.

I also want to take a moment to acknowledge our educators across the state who are gearing up for the spring assessment windows, including the IREAD window which also opens on Monday. Last year, we celebrated an [unprecedented increase](#) in third grade literacy. Here's a



quick reminder of the tremendous strides our state made in literacy, which can be attributed to all of the hard work in schools and communities across the state:

- Indiana saw a nearly **five percentage point increase** in third grade literacy, the **largest single-year increase** since the launch of IREAD in 2013;
- For the first time *ever*, literacy rates **increased for every student population**; and
- **Over one-third of Indiana elementary schools** reached our state's 95% reading goal, an increase of nearly **180 elementary schools** in just one year.

Thank you to our educators, parents and families, and our students for all of your hard work. And as always, thank you for all that you do for Indiana students!

Office of Assessment

NEW: SAT School Day and IREAD Monitoring

The Indiana Department of Education's (IDOE's) Office of Student Assessment will conduct virtual and onsite monitoring visits during the [SAT School Day](#) and [IREAD Spring 2026](#) testing windows from Monday, March 2, through Friday, March 13, to ensure fidelity of test administration and test security requirements. Contact IDOE's [Office of Student Assessment](#) with any questions.

REMINDER: Spring 2026 SAT School Day Testing Window Opens Monday, March 2

The Spring 2026 SAT School Day testing window is Monday, March 2, through Friday, March 13. Cohort 2027 students must participate in the assessment, and schools are encouraged to administer the SAT School Day early in the testing window to ensure all students are tested before it closes. Refer to the [SAT 2025-2026 Milestones](#) and [SAT School Day Test Window Checklist](#) for an overview of testing tasks. Contact IDOE's [Office of Student Assessment](#) with any questions.

REMINDER: IREAD Spring 2026 Testing Window Opens Monday, March 2

The IREAD Spring 2026 testing window is open Monday, March 2, through Friday, March 13. Below are a few reminders:

- Ensure all students have participated in the [practice test](#) prior to operational testing.
- Additional orders for paper testing materials close Friday, March 6, for new or updated student accommodations.
- Ensure student data is accurate within the Test Information Distribution Engine (TIDE).
- Ensure that test administration materials are prepared, including the [IREAD Test Administrator's Manual \(TAM\)](#) and accommodated scripts, as needed.

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

NEW: Mathematics Webpage

IDOE is excited to announce the launch of our brand-new [Mathematics webpage](#), now live on the IDOE website! This new webpage serves as a central hub for core information and resources regarding mathematics education across all grade levels and offers a comprehensive view of the work in Indiana to ensure every student has access to rigorous and meaningful math learning. Contact IDOE's [Office of Curriculum and Instruction](#) with any questions.

NEW: The Five Strands of Mathematical Proficiency

To continue supporting high-quality, evidence-based mathematics instruction, IDOE has developed

guidance on the [Five Strands of Mathematical Proficiency](#) from the landmark research document Adding It Up (National Research Council). The National Research Council, a leading organization that provides research-based recommendations across scientific and educational fields, identified these strands as critical components of effective math learning. This framework explains how conceptual understanding, procedural fluency, strategic competence, adaptive reasoning, and productive disposition work together to promote meaningful engagement with mathematics. Educators can use this resource to better recognize and nurture students' strengths across all five strands, helping them engage with, explore, and apply mathematical concepts in purposeful ways. Contact IDOE's [Office of Curriculum and Instruction](#) with any questions.

NEW: Thinking About Data Science in the Classroom On-Demand

In December, IDOE, in partnership with Data Science for Everyone, hosted a one-day [Data Science Summit](#) to bring together K-12 educators, higher education partners, and industry professionals to collaborate on the future of data science in Indiana. In [this on-demand session](#), Rick Hudson, Ph.D., engages participants in a data analysis activity and discusses what it means for students to learn about data science in the K-12 setting across multiple disciplines. Contact IDOE's [Digital Learning Team](#) with any questions.

REMINDER: Example Scope and Sequence for Auto-Enrollment

IDOE has developed a [sample scope and sequence](#) to support middle schools in implementing automatic enrollment in advanced mathematics courses, as required by [Indiana Code 20-30-18-3](#). This resource provides one example of a grade six through eight standards progression that aligns with the auto-enrollment guidance and criteria previously shared by IDOE. This sample is designed to assist schools in making informed local instructional decisions for advanced math courses and is not a requirement. Additional samples will be released as part of IDOE's ongoing support for auto-enrollment implementation. Contact IDOE's [Office of Curriculum and Instruction](#) with any questions.

Office of Educator Preparation

REMINDER: Public Comment Window for Indiana Educator Standards

Three committees composed of content area experts from higher education and preschool-12 schools were convened to develop new educator preparation standards for School Social Worker, Director of Career and Technical Education, and Director of Curriculum and Instruction. The draft standards are available for public comment through 5 p.m. ET on Friday, March 20.

Use the following Jotforms to access the draft standards and detailed instructions for participating in this process:

- [School Social Worker](#)
- [Director of Career and Technical Education](#)
- [Director of Curriculum and Instruction](#)

This input will be used to refine standards, and final recommendations will be presented to the Indiana State Board of Education later this year. Please contact [Scott Bogan](#) with any questions.

Office of Educator Talent and Literacy Center

NEW: Free Write Now 2026 Virtual Conference with Keys to Literacy

IDOE will host the Write Now 2026 Virtual Conference on Tuesday, June 9, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. ET with Keys to Literacy. The live virtual conference is free for licensed K-12 Indiana educators. Educators who attend the full, five-hour conference and verify participation will receive a \$100 stipend from IDOE and a certificate of completion for five hours, including two language comprehension hours applicable toward the early literacy endorsement professional development

hours. Focused on evidence-based literacy practices, this conference blends research with real-world instructional guidance to support teachers in elevating literacy teaching across grade levels and content areas. Registration begins today, Friday, February 27, and space is limited. Click [here](#) to register and for more information. Contact IDOE's [Literacy Center](#) with any questions.

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. Participants must complete the course(s) by 11:59 p.m. ET on Monday, June 1. Those who do not finish by this date will not be eligible to re-register for this free course option in the future. Contact IDOE's [Literacy Center](#) with any questions.

REMINDER: Early Literacy Professional Development Approval and Praxis Voucher Request

Educators who need to submit a request to verify completion of an approved 80 hours of professional development can continue to follow the process outlined [here](#). Educators requesting a one-time Praxis voucher can follow the same process, based on availability. Educators must schedule their exam within six months of receiving their voucher. Once the 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. An FAQ with additional information regarding the early literacy endorsement can be found [here](#), and we will continue to include 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 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, March 11. Click [here](#) to join. Learn more information by visiting the Indiana Acadience webpage [here](#). Contact the [Literacy Center](#) with any questions.

Office of School Finance

NEW: Estimated Average Daily Membership (ADM) Data Requested

The window to submit estimated ADM data for fiscal year (FY) 2027 is open through Friday, March 27. View this [memo](#) for additional details on how to submit this data. Contact IDOE's [Office of School Finance](#) with any questions.

REMINDER: Membership Conflict Petition Process

The window to submit a membership conflict petition is now open. This [memo](#) details the process. Friday, March 13, 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: Form 9 Memo for January to June 2026

Please read the following [memo](#) regarding updates for the January to June 2026 Form 9 financial data submission and the chart of accounts. If you have questions, please email IDOE's [Office of School Finance](#).

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 [accepting applications](#) for 1003 Flexibility Waivers to support improved student outcomes, operational efficiency, and innovative learning. Details are available in the [memo](#) and [Flexibility Guide for Indiana's K-12 Schools](#). Applications are open on a rolling basis through Friday, April 24, and will be considered at SBOE meetings through July. Contact [Georgia Watson](#) with any questions.

Office of Student, School, and Family Engagement

REMINDER: Public Comment Open on Indiana's Employability Skills Standards

Indiana's Employability Skills Standards are designed to help students build the most in-demand skills for current and future careers. IDOE is currently seeking public feedback on updates to the Employability Skills Standards for the 2026-2027 school year. The updated standards are arranged within the domains and skills of Communication, Collaboration, and Work Ethic, which aligns with the Indiana Graduates Prepared to Succeed characteristics, as well as the new Indiana diploma and readiness seals. Click [here](#) to review the updated standards and provide feedback by 11:45 p.m. ET on Friday, March 13. IDOE will use this input to refine standards and present final recommendations to the Indiana State Board of Education later this year.

Office of Special Education, English Learning, and Migrant Education

NEW: 2026 Special Education Teacher Workshop Series

IDOE's Office of Special Education, Technical Assistance (TA) Team is providing a series of free webinars for new special education teachers, or those looking for a refresher, once a month in the Indiana Learning Lab. These trainings will cover a variety of special education-related topics and will also provide an opportunity for teachers of record to ask questions. The next live webinar will be held on Tuesday, March 10, from noon to 1 p.m. ET, and will focus on manifestation determination meetings. To register to attend live, visit the Learning Lab [here](#). All webinars will be recorded and uploaded to the Learning Lab for on-demand viewing. Use the same link to access the recordings. Contact IDOE's [Office of Special Education](#) with any questions.

NEW: Monthly New EL Director PLC on Tuesday, March 10

New directors of English learner (EL) programs are invited to join IDOE in an ongoing Professional Learning Community (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 Tuesday, March 10, at 9:30 a.m. ET. The meeting link and information can be found on the [Indiana EL Professional Development Opportunities Calendar](#). Please contact IDOE's [Office of English Learning and Migrant Education](#) with questions.

NEW: 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 Wednesday, March 11, from 10 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: Certificate of Multilingual Proficiency (CoMP) Informational Meeting

Indiana's Certificate of Multilingual Proficiency (CoMP) benefits secondary multilingual students by validating their fluency across multiple languages. To learn more, join the IDOE English Learner team for an informational webinar on Tuesday, March 10, from 3:30 to 4:30 p.m. ET. Participation, implementation, and guidance updates will be discussed. No registration is required, and the access link can be found on the [Indiana EL Professional Development Opportunities Calendar](#). More information can be found on the [IDOE CoMP webpage](#). Contact IDOE's [Office of English Learning and Migrant Education](#) with any questions.

REMINDER: Fiscal Year (FY) 2024 611 and 619 Final Reports

Any FY 2024 final reports that have not been submitted for 611 and 619 are now past due. Please submit these reports via email at partbgrants@doe.in.gov by Friday, February 27.

REMINDER: Special Education Director Outreach Opportunities

The IDOE Office of Special Education is offering multiple support opportunities for Indiana special education directors and administrators in 2026. Join the March sessions to learn more about early childhood placement, braille orders/returns, and discipline data.

- 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 IDOE 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.

REMINDER: Early Childhood Special Education Directory

In response to requests from educators and school leaders, we are creating an Early Childhood Special Education Directory. To be part of this directory, local education agencies (LEAs) are invited to complete [this voluntary form](#). Once this directory information is gathered, a searchable format will be created and posted to the Office of Special Education Moodle to assist LEAs in connecting with colleagues around the state about topics of interest in early childhood special education.

REMINDER: Spread the Word - Preparation for First Steps Transition

IDOE has created the following joint guidance with the Family and Social Services Administration (FSSA) - [Spread the Word: Preparation for First Steps Transition](#). This document seeks to add clarity about the difference between the First Steps requirement for transition planning meetings and the joint First Steps/LEA requirement for transition conferences. There are no new requirements or changes to requirements in this guidance. LEAs can contact IDOE's [Office of Special Education](#) or FSSA's [Bureau of Child Development Services](#) with any questions.

REMINDER: Aspiring Special Education Leadership Institute Cohort Seven

The Indiana Council of Administrators of Special Education (ICASE) offers a one-year leadership

development program designed to prepare educators for special education leadership roles to improve outcomes for all students. The Aspiring Special Education Leadership Institute (ASELI) is currently accepting [applications](#) for cohort seven. ASELI is composed of teachers, school psychologists, counselors, and principals who aspire to be special education administrators and are committed to a career in special education leadership. ASELI is not available for currently licensed special education directors. For questions, contact specialeducation@doe.in.gov.

REMINDER: Part B Office Hours - Year 5 FY 2026 Maintenance of Effort

IDOE's Office of Special Education will hold a Maintenance of Effort (MOE) Office Hours to provide technical assistance and answer specific MOE-related questions. The MOE process demonstrates LEA compliance with the IDEA Part B requirement to maintain year-to-year state/local funding for special education programming. Each LEA must complete the MOE workbook, even if it is a member of a special education consortium. Because completion of this workbook requires coordination, LEA special education and business office staff are both encouraged to attend. Please use the link below to join:

[Monday, March 2, from 11 a.m. to 12 p.m. ET](#)

Office of Title Grants and Support

NEW: Federal Programs Quarterly Meeting

Join IDOE's Title Grants and Support Team at our next quarterly meeting from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. on Thursday, March 5. At this meeting, we will share information regarding federal program updates. The session will be recorded and shared in the Indiana Learning Lab. Please ensure attendees register [here](#), as there will not be a regular meeting link. We will not host a February Coffee Chat. Contact Title1@doe.in.gov with any questions.

Office of Educational Options and Quality

NEW: Choice Scholarship Endorsement Forms for Period 2

Period 2 Endorsement Forms for Choice Scholarship students are required to be signed by a parent/guardian, as well as a school representative, and be uploaded to the Choice Application. This form gives permission for payment to be made directly to the school. The deadline to upload Endorsement Forms for Period 2 has been extended to Friday, March 6. Contact ChoiceSchool@doe.in.gov with any questions.

NEW: 2026-2027 Choice School Application

The application for schools to apply to participate in the 2026-2027 Choice Scholarship Program is open through Tuesday, September 1. The application is digital and can be accessed through the [LINK portal](#). Contact ChoiceSchool@doe.in.gov with any questions.

NEW: 2026-2027 Choice Student Application

The application for students to apply to participate in the 2026-2027 Choice Scholarship Program will be open Sunday, March 1, through Tuesday, September 1. The application can be accessed through the [LINK portal](#). For more information about the Choice Scholarship Program, visit the [Indiana Choice Scholarship Program](#) webpage or contact ChoiceSchool@doe.in.gov.

REMINDER: Career Scholarship Accounts and Education Scholarship Accounts Application Window Opens Sunday, March 1

The application window for the Career Scholarship Account (CSA) and Education Scholarship Account (ESA) programs will open on Sunday, March 1. This is the first year that the CSA and ESA

programs will be administered by IDOE. Eligible expenses and other processes will remain the same for the 2026-2027 school year. For more information, including our updated handbooks and frequently asked questions, click [here](#) or call 317-232-0723.

News From Our Partners

NEW FROM POWERSCHOOL: National Special Programs PowerUp Event

Join the upcoming Special Programs webinar, hosted by PowerSchool, to learn how to streamline workflows, ensure compliance, and save time with powerful features like:

- Progress Monitoring,
- Accommodations Reporting,
- Communication Tools,
- My Student Table Data,
- File-Based Documents,
- Audit and Event Logs,
- Related Services Data Monitoring,
- And more!

The next webinar will take place on Tuesday, March 10, at 1 p.m. ET. Click [here](#) to register.



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: Indiana Department of Education
100 N. Senate Ave., Indianapolis, IN, 46204 US

[Privacy Notice](#)

[Manage Preferences](#)

[Unsubscribe](#)