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Dr. Jenner's Weekly Update

Weekly Newsletter from the Indiana Department of Education

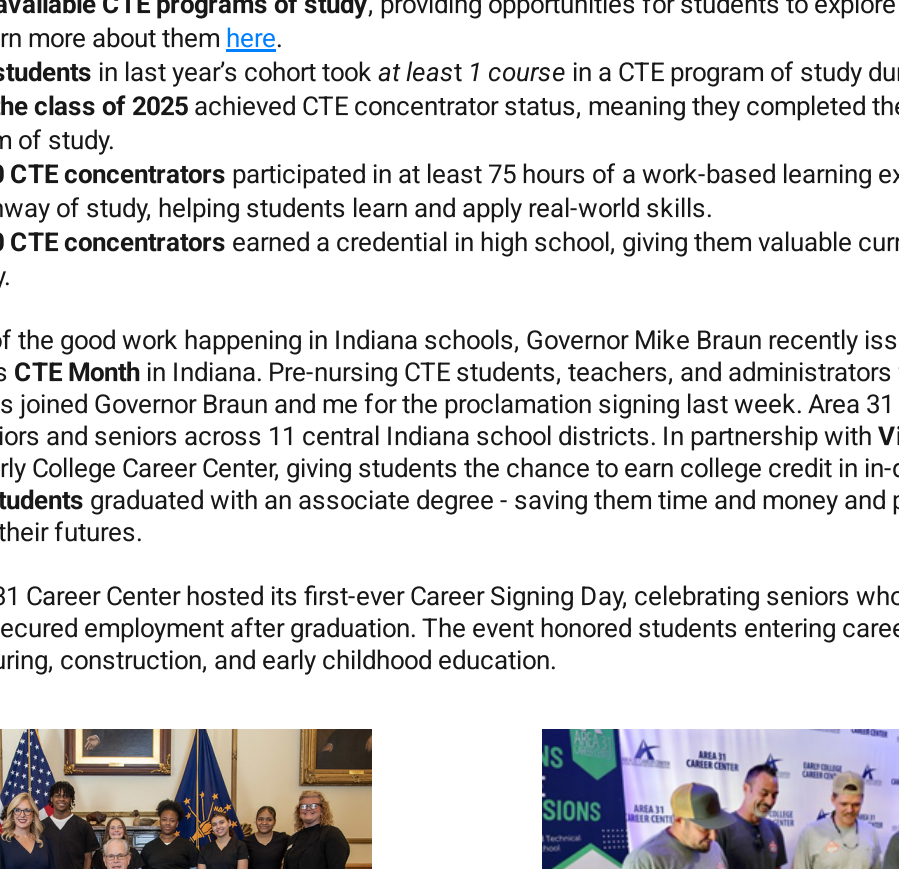
February 6, 2026

A Message from Dr. Katie Jenner

Happy School Counseling Week! This week we celebrate the dedicated school counselors who support our students and help them to achieve a bright future. Thank you to each of our school counselors for encouraging every student to find their purpose and develop the skills they need to succeed in whatever path they choose!

The month of February is also Career and Technical Education (CTE) Month! On Thursday, CTE educators and students filled the Statehouse to celebrate CTE Day. Students took to the stage and shared inspiring stories about how their CTE classes and teachers shaped their educational and career paths.

Indiana is a national leader in participation in secondary CTE programs, with **over 250,000 students** enrolled in at least one CTE course in the 2025-2026 academic year – a **new record high for our state!** These programs provide students with real-world experiences, an opportunity to earn credentials of value, and a head start on their next steps, whether that's starting a rewarding career right after high school, continuing their education, or in some cases, both!

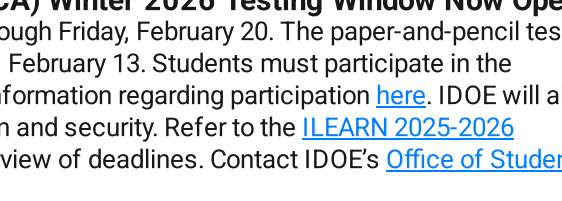
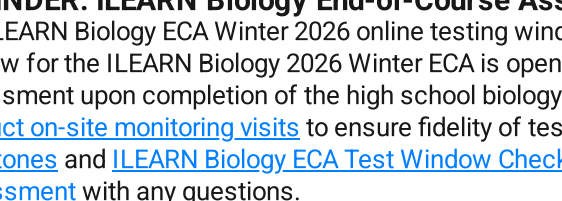


Here are some quick stats about participation in Indiana CTE programs, as well as their impact on students across our state...

- There are **65 available CTE programs of study**, providing opportunities for students to explore a variety of career interests. Learn more about them [here](#).
- **Over 90% of students** in last year's cohort took at least 1 course in a CTE program of study during high school.
- **Over 50% of the class of 2025** achieved CTE concentrator status, meaning they completed the first three courses in a CTE program of study.
- **Nearly 10,000 CTE concentrators** participated in at least 75 hours of a work-based learning experience aligned to their CTE pathway of study, helping students learn and apply real-world skills.
- **Nearly 10,000 CTE concentrators** earned a credential in high school, giving them valuable currency to begin their career journey.

In recognition of all of the good work happening in Indiana schools, Governor Mike Braun recently issued a [proclamation](#) declaring February as **CTE Month** in Indiana. Pre-nursing CTE students, teachers, and administrators from **Area 31 Career Center** in Indianapolis joined Governor Braun and me for the proclamation signing last week. Area 31 Career Center serves on average 1,400 juniors and seniors across 11 central Indiana school districts. In partnership with **Vincennes University**, they launched the **Early College Career Center**, giving students the chance to earn college credit in in-demand industries. Last year alone, **20 students** graduated with an associate degree - saving them time and money and providing them a strong head start on their futures.

Also, last year, Area 31 Career Center hosted its first-ever Career Signing Day, celebrating seniors who participated in work-based learning and secured employment after graduation. The event honored students entering careers in healthcare, advanced manufacturing, construction, and early childhood education.



As we work to ensure every Hoosier student makes the most of their four years in high school, CTE programs...like those at Area 31 Career Center (and many others!)...continue to deliver measurable results. Across Indiana, innovative partnerships between educators, employers, and higher education institutions are creating real opportunities for students. Together, we are preparing the next generation of leaders, innovators, and entrepreneurs.

As always, thank you for all you do for our students!

Office of Assessment

REMINDER: ILEARN Checkpoint 2 Window Extended

Due to inclement weather, the ILEARN Checkpoint 2 window is extended through Friday, February 13. ILEARN Checkpoint 3 will remain on schedule opening on Monday, February 9. Test Administrators should ensure the correct assessment is chosen before testing begins. As a reminder, opportunity will now remain open for all Checkpoints until Friday, April 10. Contact the Indiana Department of Education's (IDOE's) [Office of Student Assessment](#) with any questions.

REMINDER: Released Items Repository (RIR) Refresh

Newly released items for ILEARN are now available in the RIR. Educators, students, and families may access the [RIR](#) via the [Indiana Assessment Portal](#) to practice sample test items and use available accommodations. Refer to the [RIR Directory Landing Page](#) to view the list of released items, standard alignments, and answer keys/rubrics. Refer to the [RIR Quick Guide](#) for additional information. Contact IDOE's [Office of Student Assessment](#) with any questions.

REMINDER: ILEARN Biology End-of-Course Assessment (ECA) Winter 2026 Testing Window Now Open

The ILEARN Biology ECA Winter 2026 online testing window is open through Friday, February 20. The paper-and-pencil testing window for the ILEARN Biology 2026 Winter ECA is open through Friday, February 13. Students must participate in the assessment upon completion of the high school biology course. Find information regarding participation [here](#). IDOE will also [conduct on-site 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.

Office of Strategy and Communications

REMINDER: Accessing Past Newsletter Links

Due to recent security updates completed by Salesforce – the state's customer relationship management platform – some links in older newsletters are no longer accessible. To view past editions of Dr. Jenner's Weekly Update, click [here](#). All links in 2026 newsletters will be refreshed. We will also rerun important updates in the coming weeks, such as meeting and Jotform links. If you are having trouble accessing a link, please reach out to the contact included in the corresponding blurb or email [communications@doe.in.gov](#).

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

NEW: Auto-Enrollment Office Hours Recording

On Thursday, January 29, IDOE hosted a live office hours for counselors and administrators serving students in grades six through eight. The webinar recording can be found [here](#). The session included a brief overview of the latest guidance, followed by Q&A. Questions answered during the session can be viewed in the parking lot, which is available in the office hours [slides](#). Contact IDOE's [Office of Curriculum and Instruction](#) with any questions.

NEW: Professional Development in the Indiana Learning Lab - Esports

Join Joe Wilhelm from the Indiana Esports Network on Monday, February 9, at 1:45 p.m. ET for a session on esports, a fun way for middle and high school students to hone their communication, collaborative, and digital literacy skills. The session will also provide guidance to help schools implement this competitive extracurricular opportunity. [Register here!](#) Contact IDOE's [Digital Learning Team](#) with any questions.

REMINDER: Professional Learning Series for Early Learning Administration

With the expansion of preschool programs in Indiana elementary schools, a new self-paced course, [Professional Learning Series for Early Learning Administration](#), is now available in the [Indiana Learning Lab](#). This course is designed to support elementary principals working with students pre-K through grade one, and offers opportunities to enhance knowledge of early learning pedagogy and best practices while promoting leadership skills. Participants are encouraged to collaborate with school-based team members to support learning and apply concepts throughout the asynchronous course, while district-level leaders are encouraged to use the accompanying PLC Handbook to facilitate local PLC meetings with participating staff. Participants also have the opportunity to design a concept for an implementation project based on principles learned in the course and PLCs. Contact IDOE's [Office of Student Assessment](#) with any questions.

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

In 2026, Indiana is reflecting on a decade of growth in CS education and looking to revise Indiana's strategic state CS plan as new goals supporting the computer science graduation requirement and artificial intelligence literacy have emerged. IDOE's computer science specialist held a virtual presentation on the state of CS education in Indiana on Friday, January 30. A recording of the webinar can be accessed [here](#). Contact IDOE's [Office of Curriculum and Instruction](#) with any questions.

REMINDER: Register for the Digital Learning Coach Camp on Tuesday, March 10

Digital Learning coaches are invited to join IDOE for Digital Learning Coach Camp from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. ET on Tuesday, March 10, at the Central Indiana Education Service Center (CIESC). This free professional collaboration and learning opportunity for those in educational technology coaching roles is a round-table style, one-day event that brings together coaches from across the state. Register for this opportunity using [this form](#). Contact IDOE's [Digital Learning Team](#) with any questions.

REMINDER: Indiana PRIME Informational Webinar Recording

On Thursday, January 22, IDOE and the Southern Regional Education Board hosted a live webinar for teachers planning to or interested in offering the Postsecondary Ready Investigative Mathematics Experience (PRIME) Math course for seniors. The webinar recording can be found [here](#). Contact IDOE's [Office of Curriculum and Instruction](#) with questions.

Office of Educator Talent and Literacy Center

NEW: The Literacy Leadership Series Workshop, "Bringing Evidence-Based Literacy Instruction to Life within Secondary Content-Area Classrooms, Part 1"

Join IDOE for the next Literacy Leadership Series workshop, "Bringing Evidence-Based Literacy Instruction to Life within Secondary Content-Area Classrooms, Part 1," from 2 to 3 p.m. ET on Tuesday, February 10, with Genevieve Thomas, president of Spark Education Consulting. Part 2 of this workshop will be held on Tuesday, February 24. Continuing through April, the IDOE Literacy Leadership Series is a high-impact series specially 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, guidance, and 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.

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 the [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 the [Literacy Center](#) with any questions.

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 Special Education, English Learning, and Migrant Education

NEW: Non-Public School Consultation Services (LEAs) that Have a Fiscal Year (FY) 2026 Part B Monday, February 16

All public local educational agencies (LEAs) that have a fiscal year (FY) 2026 Part B proportionate share requirement must email documentation demonstrating ongoing consultation for equitable services to IDOE's [ombudsman](#) by Monday, February 16.

- Written affirmation of timely, meaningful, and ongoing consultation (pursuant to 34 CFR §300.134) signed by representatives of participating non-public schools and parents of parentally placed non-public school students with disabilities (pursuant to 34 CFR §300.135).
- If the representatives do not provide written affirmation within a reasonable period of time, the LEA must forward documentation of the non-public consultation process.
- This documentation must be submitted by each LEA that is required to set aside a proportionate share of its FY 2026 Part B grant funds for provision of equitable services (specialized instruction and related services) to parentally placed students with disabilities attending non-public schools, including home schools, located within their district boundaries.
- Examples of acceptable documentation include meeting minutes or agendas, communication logs, etc. LEAs may also complete the [IDEA Equitable Services Ongoing Consultation Affirmation form](#) with appropriate signatures to meet this requirement.
- All email submissions must begin with the four-digit corporation number in the subject line (e.g., XXXX Ongoing Consultation Submission).

Contact IDOE's [ombudsman](#) with any questions.

NEW: 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 they are 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:

- [Wednesday, February 25, from 1 to 2 p.m. ET](#)
- [Monday, March 2, from 11 a.m. to 12 p.m. ET](#)

NEW: FY24 611 & 619 Final Reports

Any FY24 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 Educators Needed for Indiana's K-12 Social Studies Content Connectors Review Committees

IDOE is recruiting interested special educators to comprise committees that will review the K-12 Social Studies Content Connectors. Educators are needed for committees representing kindergarten through grade eight and four high school courses (Economics, U.S. Government, U.S. History, and Geography and History of the World). Interested individuals should submit [this form](#) to be considered for this opportunity. IDOE will review all submissions and select participants based on many criteria (e.g., teaching experience, current role, student populations served) to help maximize representativeness of each committee. Contact IDOE's [Office of Curriculum and Instruction](#) with any questions.

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 February sessions to learn more about statewide assessment accommodations for students in special education, statewide assessments and accountability, as well as alternative assessment participation guidelines.

- The [Directors Symposium](#) is held monthly to provide relevant policy and resource updates that support directors in strengthening compliance in their corporations' 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: Educational Benefit Review Pilot Grant Opportunity

IDOE's Office of Special Education is inviting 15 local educational agencies (LEAs) and charter schools to participate in [piloting an Educational Benefit Review \(EBR\) process](#) through a grant opportunity. Total grant awards will range from \$5,000 to \$25,000. An EBR is a structured process for evaluating whether an IEP is reasonably calculated to provide educational benefits to a student with a disability. This involves examining past and present IEPs (usually three years) to determine if the student is making appropriate progress and if the IEP is being adjusted correctly to meet changing needs. This grant provides funding for substitute teachers, travel, and associated costs that enable training of the LEA's EBR team. View a recording of the [grant application information meeting](#) to learn more, and apply for the Educational Benefit Review Pilot Grant here. Contact [EBRPilotgrant@doe.in.gov](#) with questions.

Office of Educational Options and Quality

NEW: Our Charter School Support Team is Here to Help!

We exist to support charter schools in every stage and act as their point of contact anytime they have an IDOE-related question. If the question is not specific to our team, we will point you in the right direction. Please email [CharterPrograms@doe.in.gov](#) with any questions. Our team does a great job of monitoring this inbox and will promptly answer your questions, or connect you directly with the individuals within IDOE who can.

Indiana Commission for Higher Education

REMINDER: Career and Technical Education Awards for Excellence

Indiana's Career and Technical Education (CTE) team annually spotlights excellence in both secondary and postsecondary CTE through the Awards for Excellence (AFE). Nomination forms for the 2026 AFE ceremony are now open and will close on Monday, March 2. Information on secondary nominations can be found [here](#), and information on postsecondary nominations can be found [here](#). This year's ceremony will take place on Thursday, May 7, in Indianapolis.

Nominations are being accepted in four categories, including students, programs of study, partnerships, and career advising. The Commission for Higher Education's CTE team invites postsecondary institutions (each individual campus/branch can apply), high schools, and career centers to submit nominations. Additional information and each category's nomination form are included in the above links.

News From Our Partners

NEW FROM ILAEB INDIANA: INCAP 101 - Brief Video Details Indiana's New Education and Training Pathway

The new Indiana Career Apprenticeship Pathway (INCAP) aligns classroom learning with paid, on-the-job training, expanding opportunities for students to be inspired, engaged, and prepared to succeed. The [INCAP 101](#) video offers a brief, two-minute introduction to how INCAP works and how it helps open new doors for Hoosier students. For more details about the pathway, educators are encouraged to visit [IndianaCAP.org/educators](#) or contact their INCAP Connector directly by clicking [here](#).

NEW FROM THE EAST CENTRAL EDUCATIONAL SERVICE CENTER (ECESC): ILEARN Checkpoints - Unlocking the Story in your Students' Data (Grades 3-8)

On Monday, February 23, ECESC will host IDOE Assessment Specialist Logan Miller for an in-depth ILEARN Checkpoint workshop. During the session, Mr. Miller will review the ILEARN learning and assessment system, provide guidance about the available data points and how educators can view this data, analyze sample student reports, demonstrate how to use English/language arts and math resources to support instructional next steps, and provide ILEARN Checkpoint data report updates for next school year. Click [here](#) to register.

NEW FROM AP TIP: Next Round of Remote Teacher Collaboratives Scheduled for Thursday, March 5

During Remote Teacher Collaboratives, teachers explore practical, high-impact instructional practices, share ideas and resources, and join a network of educators around the state. Registration for these sessions is now open and free for all participants. [Register now](#). Contact [Stephanie Kucsera](#) with questions.

NEW FROM AP TIP: AP Summer Institute, July 14-17

This year marks the second year of AP-TIPS conference-style Summer Institute, continuing a long tradition of high-quality professional learning for educators. The 2026 Summer Institute will take place Tuesday, July 14, through Friday, July 17, at Pike High School in Indianapolis. This year, dual credit teachers are invited to join the Summer Institute on Wednesday, July 15, and Thursday, July 16, for sessions that emphasize shared approaches with engaging and challenging all students of advanced coursework. [Register now](#). Contact [Stephanie Kucsera](#) with questions.

NEW FROM THE INDIANAPOLIS INDIANS: Indianapolis Indians Join USA Baseball's Fun at Bat Program

Calling all Indiana elementary PE educators! The Indianapolis Indians have partnered with Anthem Blue Cross and Blue Shield (Anthem) to provide USA Baseball's [Fun at Bat](#) program to elementary schools across Indiana. Fun at Bat is a free, unique baseball and softball experience that places an emphasis on character development, functional movement, literacy, active play, and fun. Participating schools receive a co-branded banner with the Indians and Anthem, Franklin Sports equipment kit (foam baseballs, bats, training discs, a ball pump, and mesh storage bag), pack of 10 USA Baseball Championship Principles books, access to a free online instructor course, and more. Registration is open year-round and select Central Indiana schools are eligible for a special visit from Rowdies, the Indianapolis Indians mascot. Contact [Jake Martinez](#) with questions on the program or application process.

NEW FROM 1ST MAKER SPACE: Maker Manager Program | Summer Professional Development

The 1st Maker Space Maker Manager Program is a four-day, in-person professional development experience designed for educators and leaders who manage or support makerspaces and hands-on learning programs. Participants gain practical strategies for makerspace safety, organization, project planning, and sustainability while connecting with a community of fellow maker leaders. The program includes hands-on making, field experiences, and guest speakers, and is ideal for anyone looking to strengthen their maker mindset and expand high-impact learning opportunities for students. Use [this link](#) to learn more and register.

NEW FROM FULL SCALE AND ALL4ED: Rural AI Strategy

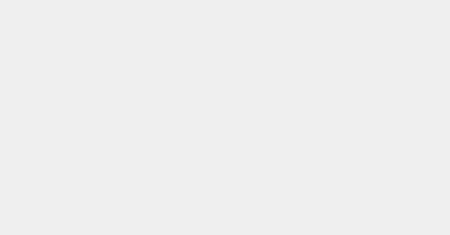
The Rural AI Strategy Lab will engage 12–15 rural schools and districts in a six-month, cohort-based learning experience beginning in early 2026. Participating teams will receive coaching as they identify a local need or opportunity and pilot AI-enabled approaches grounded in their community context. Teams will also receive a \$4,000 stipend to support their engagement, and travel and registration will be covered for one team member to attend Symposium 2026. Applications are now open and due Friday, February 13. Learn more and apply at [bit.ly/rural-ai](#).

NEW FROM KEEP INDIANA LEARNING (a department of CIESC): Solutions for Chronic Disruptive Behavior for K-12 Educators

Kevin Dill presents a robust professional development session focused on equipping K-12 staff with the skills necessary to navigate chronic behavioral challenges effectively. Through a combination of behavior science and practical modeling, the workshop on Tuesday, April 21, at The Pyramids in Indianapolis, will outline clear protocols for responding to disruptive behaviors. Educators attending this session can earn PGP toward their professional licensure. [Learn more and register today](#) as seats are limited. Contact [Keep Indiana Learning](#) with any questions.

NEW FROM WABASH VALLEY EDUCATION CENTER: Save the Date - Spring Mini-Conference

Join the Wabash Valley Education Center for an awesome day filled with best practices for multi-lingual learners. The Spring Mini-Conference will take place on Wednesday, May 6, in West Lafayette. Click [here](#) for additional details and to register. Contact [Jennifer Fry](#) with any questions.



Weekly Updates

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

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