



Dr. Jenner's Weekly Update

Weekly Newsletter from the Indiana Department of Education

March 20, 2026

A Message from Dr. Katie Jenner

March Madness is here—and in a state full of basketball fans, I'm certain many of you filled out a bracket and are gearing up to watch the games this weekend!

A couple of nights ago I was talking to an Indiana parent about her bracket (not sure how we got to that topic!). She shared that while she was making her picks her usual way—based on what she knows about each team, their performance, their players, etc., her 13-year-old son took a very different, more innovative approach. Instead, he used Artificial Intelligence (AI) to evaluate the shooting percentage of each player and went back and forth with the AI to land his bracket.

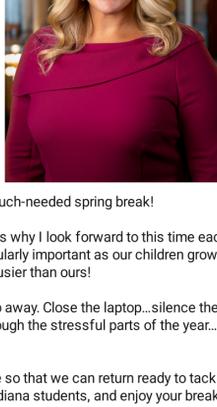
I'll certainly be following up with her to see who ends up with the better bracket picks: mom, doing it the old fashioned way...or her son, powered by AI. Beyond the March Madness fun, this is a prime example of the uniquely different world our students are growing up in, and how they are preparing for the future in ways that look drastically different than previous generations.

March is also the time of year when spring activities are picking up, the fourth and final quarter of the school year is here, and we get to enjoy a much-needed spring break!

Like many of you, life seems to move faster with each passing year. That's why I look forward to this time each year to really unplug and be present with family. This quality time is particularly important as our children grow and become more independent, often juggling schedules that feel even busier than ours!

Whenever your spring break lands, I hope you'll allow yourself to truly step away. Close the laptop...silence the constant notifications...spend some time with those who help get you through the stressful parts of the year...and don't forget to carve out some time just for you as well.

We owe it to ourselves and those around us to make the most of this time so that we can return ready to tackle the rest of the school year. Thank you, as always, for all that you do for Indiana students, and enjoy your break!



Legislative Guidance

NEW: Teacher Appreciation Grant (TAG) Distributions

The Indiana Department of Education (IDOE) will distribute [TAG allocations](#) to school corporations and charter schools that completed all required procedures on or about Monday, March 30. Stipends must be distributed to identified teachers within 60 business days of receiving the funds from IDOE. Excess/undistributed funds must be returned before Tuesday, June 30, to the following address:

Indiana Department of Education
C/O Derek Deuth
Indiana Government Center North, 9th Floor
100 N. Senate Avenue
Indianapolis, IN 46204

In the memo please indicate: 2025 TAG Excess. Contact TAG@doe.in.gov with questions.

Office of Accountability

NEW: School and Corporation Profile Amendment Window

The school and corporation profile amendment submission window for the 2026-2027 school year will be open beginning Wednesday, April 1, through Monday, August 31. In order to ensure IDOE maintains accurate information, all schools and corporations must provide notice when changes are made that affect school openings, closures, and reconfigurations. Information on the submission process can be found [here](#). Contact IDOE's [Office of Accountability](#) with any questions.

REMINDER: 2025-2026 Petition to Seek Performance-Based State Accreditation Submission Window

The submission window for nonpublic schools to submit a [petition for performance-based state accreditation](#) will close on Tuesday, March 31. Petitions must be completed and submitted to IDOE prior to the school year for which accreditation would begin. Schools are encouraged to submit a [Notice of Intent](#) form to alert IDOE of their intent to submit a petition. To submit the notice and petition, or for questions, contact IDOE's [Office of Accountability](#).

Office of Assessment

NEW: ILEARN/IREAD Content and Fairness Committee Application Now Available

IDOE seeks English/language arts (ELA), mathematics, social studies, and science educators and instructional coaches for grades three through 12 to participate in the ILEARN/IREAD Content and Fairness Committee. This committee will review new items that have been prepared for field testing and confirm whether they are appropriate or if edits are needed. The committee will meet virtually (synchronously), and training will be included during the workshop.

Key Committee Meeting Dates:

- **IREAD** - The committee will meet **Tuesday, June 9, through Wednesday, June 10**. Participants will receive an honorarium of \$320 upon completion.
- **ILEARN ELA and mathematics** - This committee will meet **Tuesday, June 9, through Thursday, June 11**. Participants will receive an honorarium of \$480 upon completion.
- **ILEARN U.S. Government** - This committee will meet on **Tuesday, June 9**. Participants will receive an honorarium of \$160 upon completion.
- **ILEARN social studies** - This committee will meet on **Wednesday, June 10**. Participants will receive an honorarium of \$160 upon completion.
- **ILEARN science** - This committee will meet **Tuesday, June 9, through Wednesday, June 10**. Participants will receive an honorarium of \$320 upon completion.
- **ILEARN computer science** - This committee will meet on **Tuesday, June 9**. Participants will receive an honorarium of \$160 upon completion.

Participants must be located in a secure environment where others cannot view their screen for the entirety of the committee due to test security requirements. The [application](#) deadline is Friday, April 3. Contact IDOE's [Office of Student Assessment](#) with any questions regarding this opportunity.

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

NEW: Public Comment Window for K-12 Social Studies Standards and Content Connectors

Committees of K-12 and postsecondary social studies educators convened to recommend updates to the Indiana Academic Standards and Content Connectors for K-12 Social Studies. The draft standards and content connectors are now available for public comment through 11:45 p.m. ET on Friday, April 10. Stakeholders can access and provide feedback on the draft standards and content connectors via this [Jotform](#). This input will be used to refine standards, and final recommendations will be presented to the Indiana State Board of Education later this year. Contact IDOE's [Office of Curriculum and Instruction](#) with questions.

NEW: Artificial Intelligence (AI) Educator Survey Report Workshop

Join us in the Indiana Learning Lab on Friday, March 27, at noon ET to discover what nearly 2,100 Indiana educators shared about the impact of artificial intelligence throughout the implementation of the 2024-2025 Digital Learning Grant, including how it shaped teaching practices, saved time, and supported student growth. Read the full report [here](#), and click [here](#) to register to attend the workshop today! Contact IDOE's [Digital Learning Team](#) with any questions.

REMINDER: High Ability Office Hours - Professional Development Series

Educators interested in high ability professional development and high ability coordinators seeking support are invited to attend the High Ability Office Hours Professional Development Series. Each session features a guest presenter to offer resources for your school and classroom. Join the live sessions using the links provided in the [Office Hours Schedule](#). The first session was geared toward high ability coordinators and administrators and focused on high ability identification. The presentation slides can be found here. Contact IDOE's [Office of Curriculum and Instruction: High Ability](#) with any questions.

REMINDER: K-8 Mathematics Tiered System of Supports Informational Webinar Series

IDOE's Office of Curriculum and Instruction will introduce and host a live webinar to support local implementation of K-8 mathematics tiered instruction. We will dive deeper into Indiana's Tiered System of Supports for K-8 Mathematics Toolkit, share some additional resources, discuss legislative updates regarding local implementation of tiered mathematics intervention plans, and then open the floor for participant questions. The webinar will take place at 3 p.m. ET on Monday, March 23. Use [this link](#) to register. For those unable to attend, the webinar will be recorded and shared in an upcoming weekly newsletter. Contact IDOE's [Office of Curriculum and Instruction](#) with any questions.

Office of Educator Talent and Literacy Center

NEW: The Literacy Leadership Series Workshop, "Middle School Reading Plans"

Join IDOE for the next Literacy Leadership Series workshop, "Middle School Reading Plans," from 2 to 2:30 p.m. ET on Tuesday, March 24, with IDOE specialists. 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 features national reading science and systems design experts and showcases 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.

NEW: Recommendations Now Open for Distinguished Educators Recognition

IDOE is seeking confidential recommendations of educators representing the very best in Indiana. These emerging leaders must demonstrate leadership beyond the classroom and positively impact school culture and student achievement. Superintendents and principals may submit recommendations [here](#). Recommendations must be submitted by Friday, April 24. Contact IDOE's [Office of Educator Talent](#) 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.

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. The next office hours will begin at 10:30 a.m. ET on Wednesday, April 1. Click [here](#) to join. Learn more by visiting the Indiana Acadience webpage [here](#). Contact the [Literacy Center](#) with any questions.

Office of School and Community Nutrition

REMINDER: School Food Service Survey

Some food dyes and additives have been linked to potential health concerns in children, such as behavioral issues, hyperactivity, and inattention. As Indiana continues to prioritize the health and safety of all Hoosier students, IDOE is seeking feedback from school food service directors, which will inform a landscape analysis on the prevalence of food additives and/or dyes in school meals. School food service directors are encouraged to complete this [Jotform](#) by Friday, April 3.

Office of School Finance

REMINDER: 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: 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.

REMINDER: Common School Loans

IDOE's Office of School Finance will accept applications for construction and technology common school loans from corporations, charter schools, and school corporation career and technical education schools through Monday, April 6. Petitions must be submitted to IDOE by this date to be considered. The application and other details can be found in the [Public School Finance Community in Moodle](#) under Common School Funds - Spring. 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 is currently open for new alternative education program proposals for the 2026-2027 school year for schools that do not currently have an approved alternative education program. The submission window closes on Tuesday, March 31. 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 IDOE's Alternative Education team for guidance. Contact IDOE's [Alternative Education team](#) with any questions.

Office of School Support & 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 this [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: Military Compact 101 Training

IDOE is offering a Compact 101 Training for school counselors and/or student service professionals on Wednesday, April 8, at 12 p.m. ET. This session highlights why it is especially critical to understand and support military-connected students whose families are not located near a military base. Without access to on-base resources, these students often rely heavily on their schools for stability, consistency, and knowledge of the Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunity for Military Children. Counselors who complete the training and accompanying quiz will receive a certificate of completion, which may be used for Purple Star School applications and/or PGP points. Click [here](#) for more information, and click [here](#) to register. Contact [Rebekah Frazer](#) with any questions.

Office of Special Education, English Learning, and Migrant Education

NEW: English Learner (EL) Exit Criteria Training on Thursday, April 23

IDOE's EL team will host a training on the process to exit eligible students from EL status through an additional evidence review on Thursday, April 23, from 3 to 4 p.m. ET. The training will occur alongside the release of updated guidance. The meeting link can be found on the [Indiana EL Professional Development \(PD\) Opportunities Calendar](#). Contact IDOE's [Office of English Learning and Migrant Education](#) with any questions.

NEW: Migrant Education Program (MEP) Work Survey Administration

In accordance with federal regulations, the MEP Work Survey must be administered annually to all students in Indiana. As local education agencies (LEAs) work to create registration processes for the coming year, please ensure that the work survey is included in the students' first registration packet. Schools must contact this survey on file until the following year. Upon receipt of positive responses to the two first questions, corporations must keep their respective [Migrant Regional Center \(MRC\)](#), so that they may determine final eligibility. MRCs will provide supplemental services for eligible migratory students. IDOE recommends that LEAs registering families via an electronic Student Information System (SIS) work with their IT department to arrange for automatic emails to be sent to their MRC in the case that positive responses are recorded on the work survey. This will ensure that the LEA is following federal regulations associated with receiving Title I funds. More information and frequently asked questions about the MEP can be found [here](#). Contact IDOE's [Office of English Learners and Migrant Education](#) with any questions.

NEW: Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) Part B Annual State Application

All states applying for funding under IDEA Part B are required to allow public review and comment on the application and proposed budget. The application, developed by the U.S. Department of Education's Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP) includes a summary of assurances, certifications, and fund usage descriptions that Indiana will use to fulfill IDEA Part B requirements. Access the application on IDOE's [Special Education webpage](#). Feedback may be submitted [here](#) through Tuesday, April 21. Upon OSEP's approval of Indiana's Part B application, the state will receive a federal grant award to implement necessary services for students with disabilities for July 1, 2026, through September 30, 2028. Contact IDOE's [Office of Special Education Part B](#) team with any questions.

REMINDER: Monthly Science of Reading for English Learners Office Hours

You are invited to join the monthly statewide virtual office hours for the Science of Reading for English Learners (SORELL) initiative! These one-hour sessions are a valuable opportunity for Indiana educators to engage in collaborative discussions, seek solutions, and receive technical assistance and guidance on implementing the science of reading principles with all students, including ELs. The next session will be held on Monday, March 30, from 3 to 4 p.m. ET. The meeting link and information can be found on the [Indiana EL PD Opportunities Calendar](#). Please contact IDOE's [Office of English Learning and Migrant Education](#) with any questions.

REMINDER: Maintenance of Effort (MOE) for Part B Funding

The window to submit Year 5 Compliance and Year 6 Eligibility for the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) Part B FY 27 funding is now open. MOE workbooks are due within the [grant management system](#) by Friday, March 27. Local educational agencies (LEAs) that have not received an approved MOE should contact their assigned fiscal specialist before completing their workbook. New charters that have not received an MOE workbook will receive a workbook by email with a different due date. FY26 December 1, 2024 child counts have been placed in the [Office of Special Education Moodle Community](#) (i.e., Fiscal - Part B Grants for Special Education - FY26 Grant Information - Maintenance of Effort -Year 5). LEAs with questions should contact their fiscal specialist.

Indiana Commission for Higher Education

NEW: 21st Century Scholars Automatic Enrollment for 2030 and 2031 Cohorts

The second round of 21st Century Scholars Automatic Enrollment for the 2030 and 2031 cohorts (current eighth and seventh graders, respectively) has been completed for the 2025-2026 academic year. The Indiana Commission for Higher Education (Commission) will continue to automatically enroll the 2031 cohort in the 2026-2027 academic year. Please direct any questions regarding your 21st Century Scholars to your region's outreach coordinator. You can find a map of regions and coordinator contact information on the Commission's [Contact Us](#) webpage.

News From Our Partners

NEW FROM AP TIP: 2026 Summer Institute, July 14-17

This year marks the second year of AP-TIP's conference-style Summer Institute, continuing a long tradition of high-quality professional learning for educators. The 2026 Summer Institute will take place from 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 for engaging and challenging all students of advanced coursework. Click [here](#) to register online. Contact [Stephanie Kucsera](#) with any questions.

REMINDER FROM AP-TIP: Register for Dual Credit Workshops at the Spring Assessment Forum

AP TIP's Spring Assessment Forum will take place at the Drury Plaza Hotel Indianapolis Carmel on Wednesday, April 8, Thursday, April 9, and Friday, April 10, hosting English, science/CSP, and math/CSA teachers, respectively. Dual credit teachers will work with representatives from Ivy Tech, Indiana University, and others to collaborate on issues related to college-level course expectations, assessment design, and the use of assessment data to drive instruction. Click [here](#) to learn more about the Spring Assessment Forum, review dates by subject, and register online by Friday, March 20. Registration fees will be waived for dual credit participants. Contact [Stephanie Kucsera](#) with any questions.

REMINDER FROM KEEP INDIANA LEARNING (A DEPARTMENT OF CIESC): Summer Conference Registration Open

Keep Indiana Learning is excited to host two incredible Hoosier educators and authors, Katie Powell and Matt Miller, as the KINLCon Summer Conference keynote speakers. Known for their passion for PK-12 student learning, engagement, and edtech, they will energize teachers, administrators, and counselors. Don't miss the knowledge they bring to KINLCon on Tuesday, June 9, and Wednesday, June 10, at Plainfield High School. Click [here](#) to register. Contact [Keep Indiana Learning](#) with any questions.



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.