



Dr. Jenner's Weekly Update

Weekly Newsletter from the Indiana Department of Education

March 6, 2026

A Message from Dr. Katie Jenner

For the past 18+ months in Indiana, we have been working to define the future of school accountability, as required by Indiana statute. This work really picked up in June 2025 when we shared a first draft of the proposed new accountability model and kicked off the first of multiple public comment periods. Over the following eight months, more than 800 Hoosiers raised their hand to be a part of the process – educators, parents and families, students, community members, and so many others – sharing feedback and solution ideas to help us build the best possible accountability model for Indiana.

On Wednesday, that collaborative and iterative process culminated in a **unanimous vote** by the Indiana State Board of Education to adopt a [new K-12 accountability model](#) focused on the future preparedness of each individual student. Today, I'd like to share a bit more about what this means for Hoosiers and why it matters...starting with what the model will prioritize for every student.

While the accountability model may be new, its focus reflects the priorities that each of us, in our respective schools and communities, have been working on, including literacy, STEM, and creating seamless pathways to each student's unique future. These priorities are grounded in Indiana's Profile of a Graduate (i.e., Indiana Graduates Prepared to Succeed or Indiana GPS), which was developed in 2021 based on extensive input about what Hoosiers value most. It is also the foundation of the Indiana GPS dashboard, which helps elevate and measure multiple indicators across five key characteristics:

- Academic Mastery
- Career & Postsecondary Readiness: Credentials & Experiences
- Communication & Collaboration
- Work Ethic
- Civic, Financial, & Digital Literacy

As we heard from stakeholders across Indiana, a focus on academic outcomes, as well as skill development and experiences, matters in order to best set up our students for success. Through this new model, students will be able to [demonstrate success in multiple ways](#) at key milestones in their K-12 journey. In short, we are measuring what matters most, with improved student outcomes as our only goal.

When calculating school grades, rather than looking at aggregate percentages, our N size is 1. As students master knowledge, develop skills, and experience real-world opportunities, that adds points; and each school's letter grade will be the average of those points generated by each student. This approach reinforces the work that schools already do to address the individual needs of each learner and provides a clear roadmap for **how they can continuously improve**. It also gives parents and families clear, transparent insight into how their child's school is preparing students for the future – from third-grade literacy...to high-quality STEM...to work-based learning and credentials of value in high school.

The new accountability model [received broad support](#) from organizations representing school leaders and educators across Indiana. Here's just a sampling of what they had to say...

"A strong accountability system should help families understand school performance, guide educators toward better decisions, and ensure that all students are positioned for meaningful postsecondary success. This new rule does exactly that." - Dr. Jeff Butts, Executive Director of the Indiana Association of Public School Superintendents

"Principals are committed to using this updated framework as a tool for continuous improvement—one that balances high expectations with clarity and fairness. We appreciate the Indiana Department of Education and State Board of Education for engaging stakeholders, listening to educator feedback, and refining the system in ways that better reflect the work happening inside our schools." - Dr. Todd Bess, Executive Director of the Indiana Association of School Principals

"IASBO believes this accountability model represents an important step forward for Indiana. It provides clarity to families, alignment for schools, and a student-centered framework that supports thoughtful, strategic investment of public resources." - Dr. J. Scott Bowling Executive Director of the Indiana Association of School Business Officials

"This updated accountability model reflects important lessons learned and our teachers are eager for a stable, transparent system they can help champion and implement. By shifting the focus to an "N size of 1"—where every student's individual growth and unique pathway counts—this framework gives teachers the tools to celebrate and support success beyond a single test score." - Rachel Hathaway, Executive Director of Teach Plus Indiana

When we set out to design a new way to measure success in our schools, our objective was simple: keep every student front and center. Thank you to everyone who weighed in and helped shape the final accountability rule. As always, thank you for all that you do for our Indiana students!



Office of Assessment

NEW: 2026-2027 Formative (Interim) Assessment Grant Approved Assessments

The Indiana State Board of Education (SBOE) approved assessment programs, specific universal reading screeners, and two preferred universal mathematics screeners for kindergarten through grade two for use with the 2026-2027 Formative (Interim) Assessment Grant. The application and accompanying guidance for requesting and using formative assessment grant funds will be available this spring. Schools can now access the approved assessments [memo](#) on the [Formative \(Interim\) Assessment Grant webpage](#). Contact the Indiana Department of Education's (IDOE's) [Office of Student Assessment](#) with any questions.

REMINDER: 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.

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

NEW: Implementing Advanced Middle School Mathematics

IDOE created an [implementation guide](#) to support middle schools in implementing automatic enrollment in advanced mathematics courses. This resource provides administrators and school leaders with a structured tool for planning and decision-making. It helps evaluate local conditions, explore feasible models, and design systems that ensure high-quality advanced math experiences for students. The guide also serves as a shared reference for administrators, school counselors, and teachers to align on advanced math goals within a school corporation. Questions and models included are offered as considerations, not requirements. Contact IDOE's [Office of Curriculum and Instruction](#) with any questions.

REMINDER: 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.

REMINDER: 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.

REMINDER: 2026 Digital Learning Grant

The 2026 Digital Learning Grant application is open through Monday, April 6. This opportunity is available to any Indiana public school corporation or public charter school. Review [this memo](#) for additional information and to access the application details. Applicants can view the information session recording using [this link](#). Contact IDOE's [Digital Learning Team](#) with any questions.

Office of Educator Talent and Literacy Center

NEW: The Literacy Leadership Series Workshop, "Leading What Matters Most: Strengthening Instructional Leadership to Transform Literacy for ALL Students"

Join IDOE for the next Literacy Leadership Series workshop, "Leading What Matters Most: Strengthening Instructional Leadership to Transform Literacy for ALL Students," from 2 to 3 p.m. ET on Tuesday, March 10, with Angela Hanlin. 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: 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: Summer School Process Changes

Please see the following [memo](#) outlining recent updates to the summer school reimbursement process in Indiana Code. Contact IDOE's [Office of School Finance](#) with any questions.

NEW: 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. Schools 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.

REMINDER: Membership Conflict Petition Process

Friday, March 13, is the deadline for a school corporation or charter school to file a membership conflict petition. This [memo](#) details the process. Contact IDOE's [Office of School Finance](#) with any questions.

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.

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.

News From Our Partners

NEW FROM EDUCATION SERVICE CENTERS OF INDIANA: School Nurses' Spring Check Up

The Education Service Centers of Indiana are excited to combine efforts to connect school nurses across our regions. Join us virtually for this informative morning designed to provide the latest updates from IDOE, share best practices in health care topics, and build local networks of school nurses. Learn more and register today by clicking [here](#). Contact [Keep Indiana Learning](#) with questions.

UPDATE FROM BALL STATE UNIVERSITY'S CENTER FOR ECONOMIC AND CIVIC LEARNING: CREATE250 Civic Learning Opportunities for Indiana Educators Deadline Extended to Sunday, March 15

Ball State University's Center for Economic and Civic Learning (CECL) invites grade four through 12 educators to apply for CREATE250, a U.S. Department of Education-supported statewide civic education initiative connected to America's 250th anniversary. Three opportunities are now open:

- **CREATE250 Civic Immersion Trip (Washington, D.C.)**
 - Sunday, July 19 - Thursday, July 23
 - Fully funded: airfare, lodging, meals, and official program transportation covered.
 - In partnership with Close Up, selected teachers will participate in a structured seminar experience, including constitutional study, guided historical inquiry, policy simulations, and visits to the U.S. Capitol, Supreme Court, National Archives, and national memorials.
 - Participation requires commitment to CREATE250 professional development (minimum 80% attendance) and engagement in the statewide Community of Practice. Apply here: <https://forms.office.com/r/TTdhrck0Zi>.
- **CREATE250 Community of Practice (CoP)**
 - January - September 2026
 - \$1,000 stipend
 - Includes: professional learning with educators across Indiana, classroom-ready civic resources and instructional support, and eligibility for the fully funded D.C. immersion
 - Apply here: <https://forms.office.com/r/pbCjhGXJ25>.
- **CREATE250 Mentor Teacher Role**
 - \$2,000 stipend
 - Includes: serving as an instructional leader and mentor; eligibility for the funded D.C. immersion
 - Apply here: <https://forms.office.com/r/R4Ypau8CVq>.

For questions, please contact CECL Director [Dr. David Roof](#).



Weekly Updates

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

Stay Informed

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