



INDIANA
DEPARTMENT of
EDUCATION

Dr. Jenner's Weekly Update

Weekly Newsletter from the Indiana Department of Education

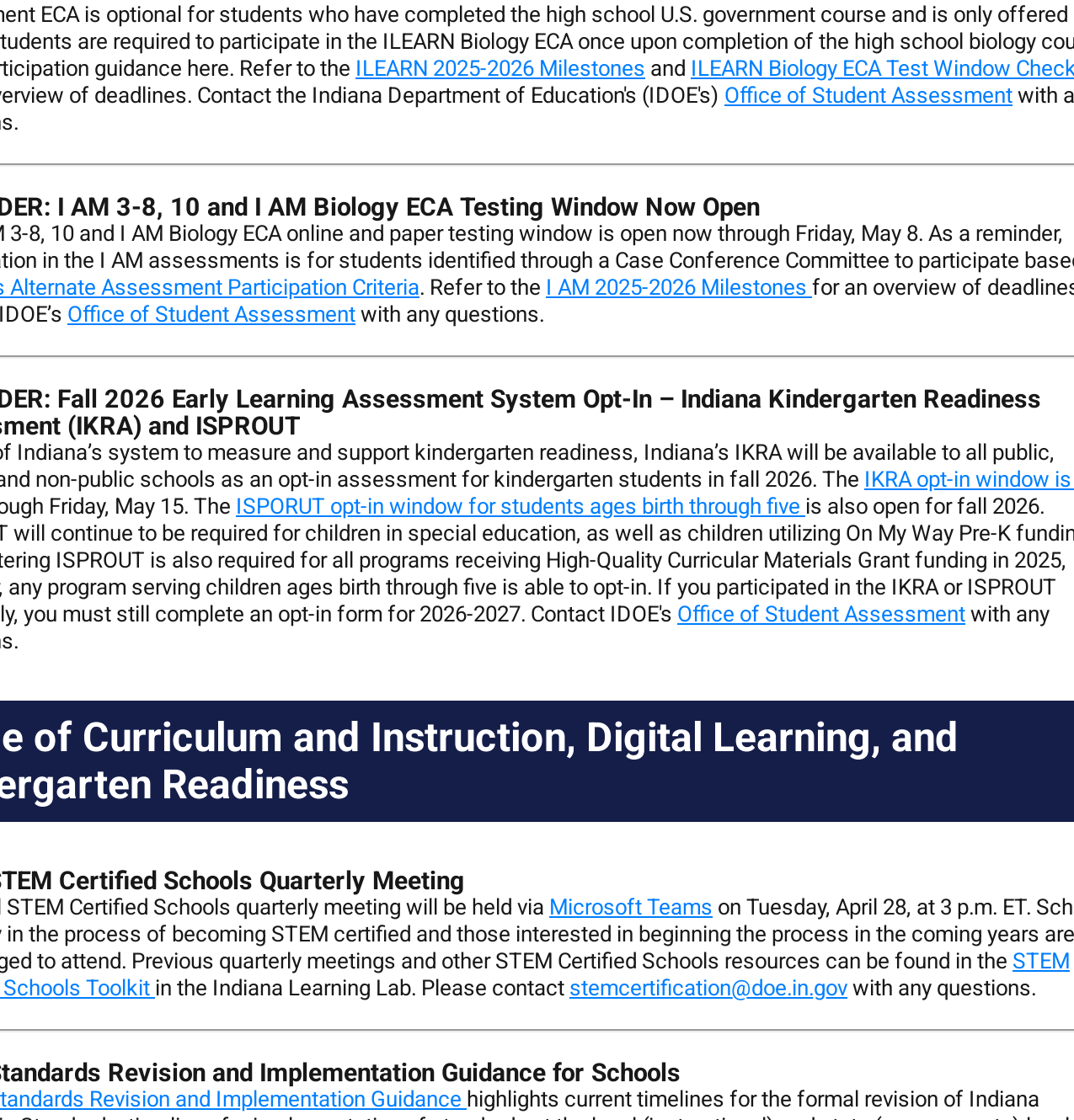
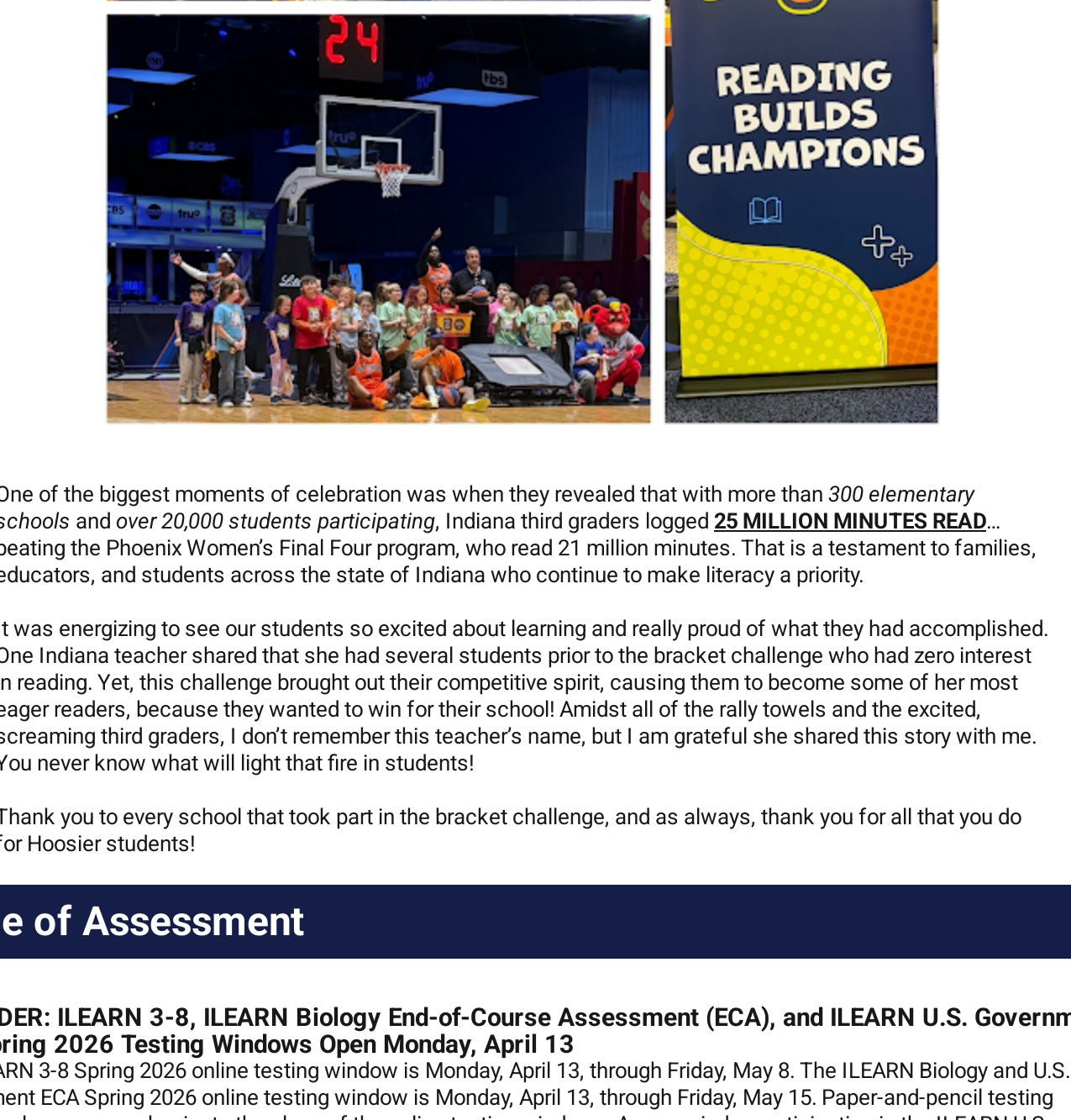
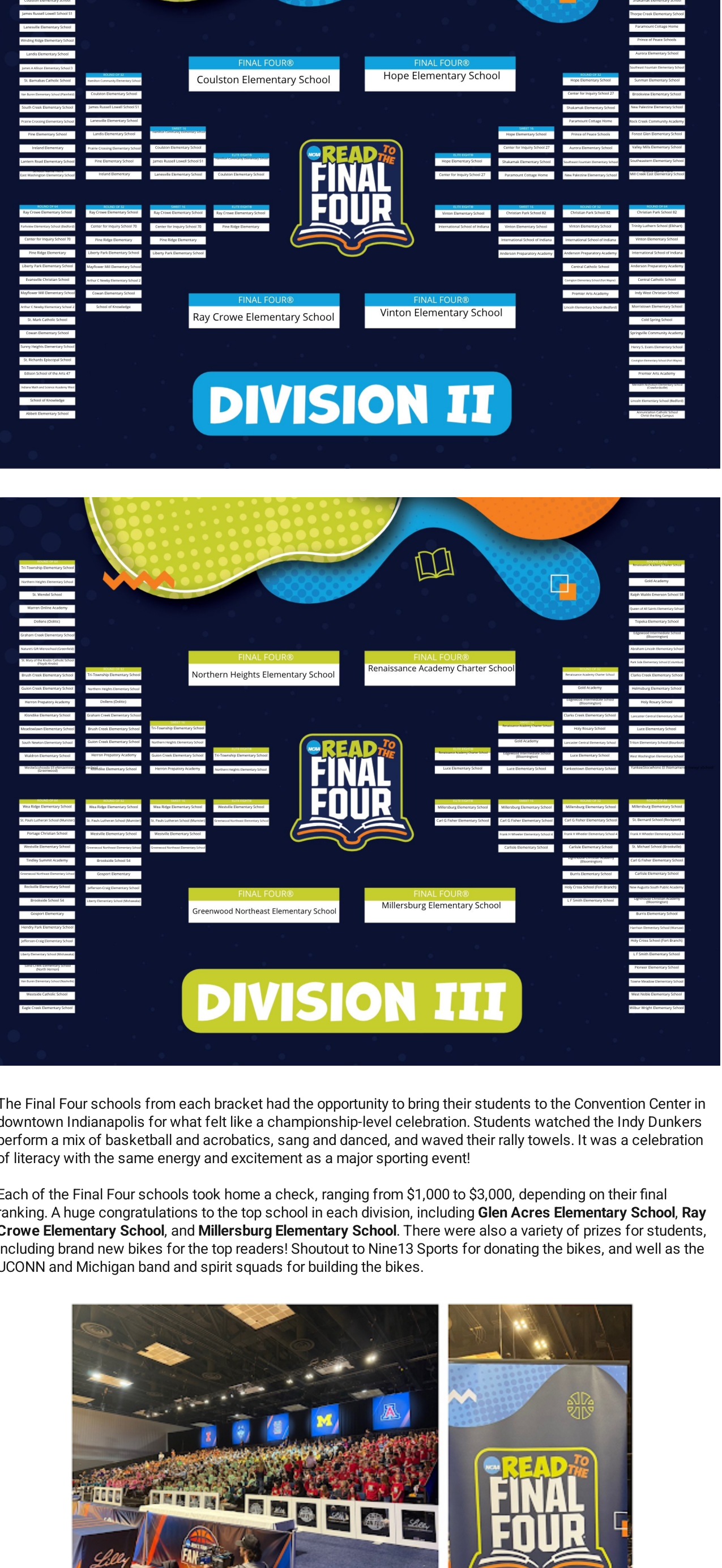
April 10, 2026

A Message from Dr. Katie Jenner

Indiana's exciting sports days continued this week as we hosted the NCAA Men's Basketball Championships on Monday. And while Indiana didn't have a team competing for the title, our state was still well represented in the final game. From Michigan's head coach, Dusty May, a Terre Haute native and IU graduate, to freshman guard Bradley Mullins, a Greenfield native and our 2025 MR. Basketball, the Hoosier State had a significant influence on both ends of the court!

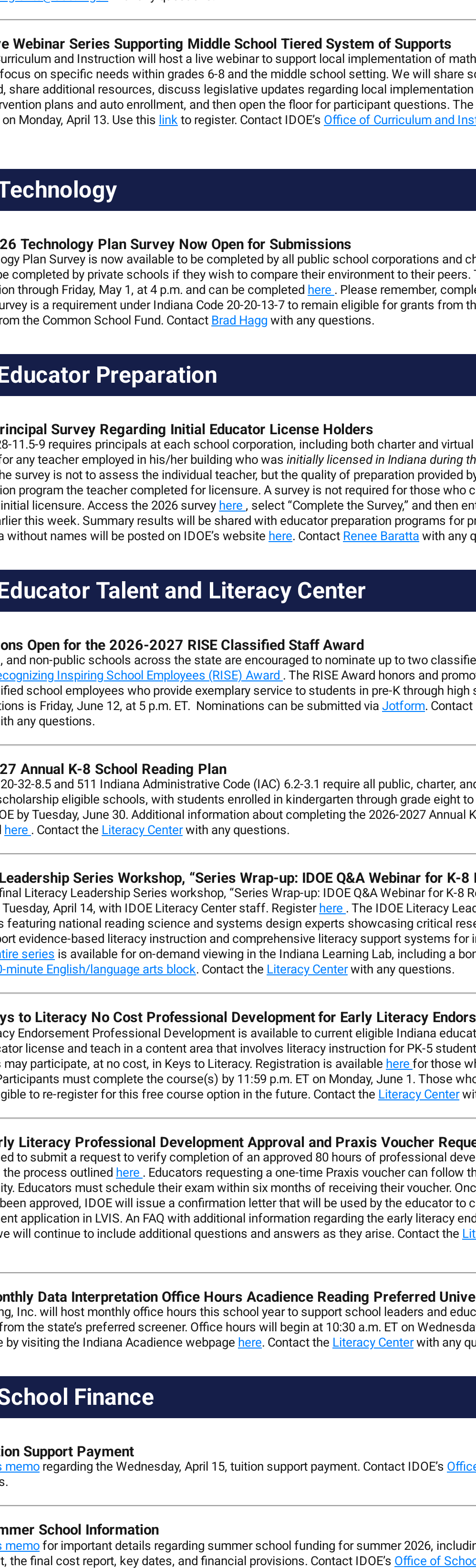
Indianapolis is known nationally as one of the premier locations to host big events, especially sporting events, because we go all out...and this week was no exception. In conjunction with the tournament, the NCAA, Indiana Sports Corp, and the local organizing committee launched a statewide reading challenge, which culminated in one of the most joyful (FUN!), high-energy literacy celebrations I've ever seen.

The challenge began last November, with third grade students across our state working to read as many books, and log as many minutes, as possible. Just like a March Madness bracket, we started with the top 64 schools and the competition heated up from there, with schools from across Indiana participating in three divisions. You can see from the three brackets below as schools advanced to the Round of 32, the Sweet 16, the Elite 8, and ultimately, the Final Four, which we celebrated on Monday. [Click each bracket to view a larger image.](#)



The Final Four schools from each bracket had the opportunity to bring their students to the Convention Center in downtown Indianapolis for what felt like a championship-level celebration. Students watched the Indy Dunkers perform a mix of basketball and acrobatics, sang and danced, and waved their rally towels. It was a celebration of literacy with the same energy and excitement as a major sporting event!

Each of the Final Four schools took home a check, ranging from \$1,000 to \$3,000, depending on their final ranking. A huge congratulations to the top school in each division, including **Glen Acres Elementary School**, **Ray Crowe Elementary School**, and **Millersburg Elementary School**. There were also a variety of prizes for students, including team bikes for the top readers! Shootout to the 13 Public Schools Community in Foxe, and the 8th and 9th UConn and Michigan band and spirit squads for building the bikes.



One of the biggest moments of celebration was when they revealed that with more than 300 elementary schools and over 20,000 students participating, Indiana third graders logged **25 MILLION MINUTES READ**...beating the Phoenix Women's Final Four program, who read 21 million minutes. That is a testament to families, educators, and students across the state of Indiana who continue to make literacy a priority.

It was energizing to see our students so excited about learning and really proud of what they had accomplished. One Indiana teacher shared that she had several students prior to the bracket challenge who had zero interest in reading. Yet, this challenge brought out their competitive spirit, causing them to become some of her most eager readers, because they wanted to win for their school! Amidst all of the rally towels and the excited, screaming third graders, I don't remember a single student's name, but I am grateful she shared this story with me. You never know what will light that fire in students!

Thank you to every school that took part in the bracket challenge, and as always, thank you for all that you do for Hoosier students!

Office of Assessment

REMINDER: ILEARN 3-8, ILEARN Biology End-of-Course Assessment (ECA), and ILEARN U.S. Government ECA Spring 2026 Testing Windows Open Monday, April 13
The ILEARN 3-8 Spring 2026 online testing window is Monday, April 13, through Friday, May 8. The ILEARN Biology and U.S. Government ECA Spring 2026 online testing window is Monday, April 13, through Friday, May 15. Paper-and-pencil testing windows close one week prior to the close of the online testing windows. As a reminder, participation in the ILEARN U.S. Government ECA is optional for students who have completed the high school U.S. government course and is only offered online. Students are required to participate in the ILEARN Biology ECA once upon completion of the high school biology course. View participation guidance [here](#). Refer to the [2026 Milestones](#) and [ILEARN Biology ECA Test Window Checklist](#) for an overview of deadlines. Contact the Indiana Department of Education's (IDOE's) [Office of Student Assessment](#) with any questions.

REMINDER: I AM 3-8, 10 and I AM Biology ECA Testing Window Now Open
The I AM 3-8, 10 and I AM Biology ECA online and paper testing window is open now through Friday, May 8. As a reminder, participation in the I AM assessments is for students identified through a Case Conference Committee to participate based on [Indiana Alternate Assessment Participation Criteria](#). Refer to the [I AM 2025-2026 Milestones](#) for an overview of deadlines. Contact IDOE's [Office of Student Assessment](#) with any questions.

REMINDER: Fall 2026 Early Learning Assessment System Opt-In – Indiana Kindergarten Readiness Assessment (IKRA) and ISPROUT
As part of Indiana's system to measure and support kindergarten readiness, Indiana's IKRA will be available to all public, charter, and non-public schools as an opt-in assessment for kindergarten students in fall 2026. The [IKRA opt-in window is now open](#) through Friday, May 15. The [ISPROUT opt-in window for students ages birth through five](#) is also open for fall 2026. ISPROUT will continue to be required for children in special education, as well as children utilizing On My Way Pre-K funding. Administering ISPROUT is also required for all programs receiving High-Quality Curricular Materials Grant funding in 2025, however, any program serving children ages birth through five is able to opt-in. If you participated in the IKRA or ISPROUT previously, you must still complete an opt-in form for 2026-2027. Contact IDOE's [Office of Student Assessment](#) with any questions.

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

NEW: STEM Certified Schools Quarterly Meeting
The NEW STEM Certified Schools quarterly meeting will be held via [Microsoft Teams](#) on Tuesday, April 28, at 3 p.m. ET. Schools currently in the process of becoming STEM certified and those interested in beginning the process in the coming years are encouraged to attend. Previous quarterly meetings and other STEM Certified Schools resources can be found in the [STEM Certified Schools Toolkit](#) in the Indiana Learning Lab. Please contact [stemcertification@doe.in.gov](#) with any questions.

NEW: Standards Revision and Implementation Guidance highlights current timelines for the formal revision of Indiana Academic Standards, timelines for implementation of standards at the local (instructional) and state (assessments) levels and the legislated timelines of the High-Quality Curricular Materials evaluation process. Schools are encouraged to reference this guidance when planning for instruction, assessment, and curriculum adoption. IDOE will update this guidance, as needed, to align with changes to any legislative requirements. Contact IDOE's [Office of Curriculum and Instruction](#) with questions.

REMINDER: 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 today, 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.

REMINDER: 2026-2027 K-12 Robotics Competition Grant Application
The [2026-2027 K-12 Robotics Competition Grant](#) is designed to support state-accredited schools and other eligible organizations in establishing or maintaining robotics competition programs designed to increase interest and improve skills in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) through participation in competitive robotics programs. Interested applicants are encouraged to attend a virtual informational session at 2 p.m. ET on Wednesday, April 15, to learn more about the grant and application process. Use the [link](#) to register. The session will be held from 11:45 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. ET on Friday, April 17. Please note that all eligible schools and organizations must submit any 2026-2027 K-12 Robotics Competition Grant applications by 11:45 p.m. on Friday, May 15. Contact [TI.grants@doe.in.gov](#) with any questions.

REMINDER: Live Webinar Series Supporting Middle School Tiered System of Supports
IDOE's Office of Curriculum and Instruction will host a live webinar to support local implementation of mathematics tiered instruction with a focus on specific needs within grades 6-8 and the middle school setting. We will share scheduling tips and features to embed, share additional resources, discuss lingering questions regarding local implementation of the tiered mathematics intervention plans and auto enrollment, and then open the floor for participant questions. The webinar will take place at 3 p.m. ET on Monday, April 13. Use this [link](#) to register. Contact IDOE's [Office of Curriculum and Instruction](#) with any questions.

Office of Technology

REMINDER: 2026 Technology Plan Survey Now Open for Submissions
The 2026 Technology Plan Survey is now available to be completed by all public school corporations and charter schools. Optionally it may be completed by private schools if they wish to compare their environment to their peers. The survey will be open for submission through Friday, May 1, at 4 p.m. and can be completed [here](#). Please remember, completion of the annual technology plan survey is a requirement under Indiana Code 20-29-13-7 to remain eligible for grants from the David C. Ford Fund, as well as loans from the Common School Fund. Contact [Bard.Hagg@doe.in.gov](#) with any questions.

Office of Educator Preparation

NEW: Annual Principal Survey Regarding Initial Educator License Holders
Indiana Code 20-28-11.5-9 requires principals at each school corporation, including both charter and virtual schools, to complete an annual survey for any teacher employed in his/her building who was initially licensed in Indiana during the previous two years. The purpose of the survey is not to assess the individual teacher, but the quality of preparation provided by the Indiana educator preparation program the teacher completed for licensure. A survey is not required for those who completed an out-of-state program for initial licensure. Access the 2026 survey [here](#), select "Complete the Survey," and then enter the access code provided to you earlier this week. Summary results will be shared with educator preparation program providers. Program improvement, and summary data without names will be posted on IDOE's website [here](#). Contact [Renae.Baratta@doe.in.gov](#) with any questions.

Office of Educator Talent and Literacy Center

NEW: Nominations Open for the 2026-2027 RISE Classified Staff Award
Districts, charters, and non-public schools across the state are encouraged to nominate up to two classified school employees for the national [Recognizing Inspiring School Employees \(RISE\) Award](#). The RISE Award honors and promotes the excellence exhibited by classified school employees who provide exemplary service to students in pre-K through high school. The deadline to submit nominations is Friday, July 12, at 5 p.m. ET. Nominations can be submitted via [JotForm](#) contact IDOE's [Office of Educator Talent](#) with any questions.

NEW: 2026-2027 Annual K-8 School Reading Plan
Indiana Code (IC) 20-32-8.5 and 511 Indiana Administrative Code (IAC) 6.2-3.1 require all public, charter, and non-public schools, including Choice scholarship eligible schools, with students enrolled in kindergarten through grade K-8 to submit an annual reading plan to IDOE by Tuesday, June 30. Additional information on completing the 2026-2027 Annual K-8 School Reading Plan can be found [here](#). Contact the [Literacy Center](#) with any questions.

NEW: Literacy Leadership Series Workshop, "Series Wrap-up: IDOE Q&A Webinar for K-8 Reading Plans"
Join IDOE for the final Literacy Leadership Series "Series Wrap-up: IDOE Q&A Webinar for K-8 Reading Plans" from 2 to 2:30 p.m. ET on Tuesday, April 14, with IDOE Literacy Center staff. Register [here](#). The IDOE Literacy Leadership Series and resources to enhance evidence-based literacy instruction and comprehensive literacy support systems for improving student outcomes. The [entire series](#) is available for on-demand viewing in the Indiana Learning Lab, including a bonus session on [how to structure the 90-minute English/language arts block](#). 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.

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, April 22. Click [here](#) to join Learn more by visiting the Indiana Acadience webpage [here](#). Contact the [Literacy Center](#) with any questions.

Office of School Finance

NEW: April Tuition Support Payment
Please review [this memo](#) regarding the Wednesday, April 15, tuition support payment. Contact IDOE's [Office of School Finance](#) with any questions.

NEW: 2026 Summer School Information
Please review [this memo](#) for important details regarding summer school funding for summer 2026, including courses eligible for reimbursement, the final cost report, key dates, and financial provisions. Contact IDOE's [Office of School Finance](#) with any questions.

Office of Special Education, English Learning, and Migrant Education

NEW: Save the Date - Virtual English Learner (EL) Leadership Meeting on Thursday, May 21
IDOE's Office of English Learning and Migrant Education will host the next virtual EL Leadership Meeting on Thursday, May 21, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. ET. This meeting is intended for Indiana K-12 EL leaders and administrators. The first two hours will include updates and interactive content on timely EL topics. The final hour will be reserved as an open Q&A session for attendees who wish to remain online for additional support. This session has transitioned to a Microsoft Teams webinar format, and registration is now required to receive the meeting link. Participant experience and functionality will remain the same. For more information, view the [Indiana EL Professional Development Opportunities Calendar](#). Contact IDOE's [Office of English Learning and Migrant Education](#) with any questions.

REMINDER: 2026 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 April sessions to learn more about evaluation reporting, the Assistive Technology Lending Library, and braille orders/returns.

- 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, and 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: 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 are submitted to fulfill IDEA Part B requirements. Access the application on IDOE's [Special Education webpage](#). Feedback may be indicated 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 effective July 1, 2026, through September 30, 2028. Contact IDOE's [Office of Special Education Part B team](#) with any questions.

REMINDER: Update to Home Language Survey (HLS) Amendment Process
To streamline processes and improve efficiency, all HLS amendment requests must be submitted via [Jotform](#) effective Monday, March 30. Previously, amendments were submitted to IDOE via fax. Any amendments submitted via fax after this date may experience delays, as the fax inbox will no longer be monitored. Submission requirements, including the [HLS Amendment Form](#) and the original HLS, remain unchanged. Please contact IDOE's [Office of English Learning and Migrant Education](#) with questions.

REMINDER: Save the Date - Dual Language In-Person Networking Day
On Friday, May 1, IDOE will host a Dual Language Networking and Collaboration Day, offering dual language educators an opportunity to share ideas and engage with colleagues to build and sustain dual language programs. The event will be held in Indianapolis. Registration via [Jotform](#) is required and must be submitted by Monday, April 27. For more information, view the [Indiana EL Professional Development Opportunities Calendar](#). Contact IDOE's [Office of English Learning and Migrant Education](#) with questions.

REMINDER: Certificate of Multilingual Proficiency (CoMP) Participation Deadline Extended Through Today, Friday, April 10
The Certificate of Multilingual Proficiency (CoMP), Indiana's Seal of Bilingualism, is awarded to seniors who demonstrate high levels of proficiency in English and another language. School corporations or nonpublic schools intending on participating in Indiana's CoMP must renew their registration annually. Those wishing to participate in the 2025-2026 school year must sign up using [this form](#) by Friday, April 10. This [current list of participants](#) shows which corporations or schools have already registered. For more information, see the [Certificate of Multilingual Proficiency webpage](#). Contact IDOE's [Office of English Learning and Migrant Education](#) with any questions.

REMINDER: 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 LEAs work to create registration processes for the coming year, please ensure that the work survey is included in the students' registration packet. Schools must keep this survey available for the Non-Public School Corporation and federal program updates. The session is the first two questions, corporations must contact 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.

Office of Title Grants and Support

NEW: Quarterly Principals Scheduling for Thursday, May 7, has been moved to Thursday, April 30, from 10 a.m. to noon ET.
Please join us to learn more in format regarding the FY2027 Title Application and federal program updates. The session will be recorded and shared in the Indiana Learning Lab. Register [here](#) to access the meeting. Contact [Title@doe.in.gov](#) with any questions.

Office of Educational Options and Quality

NEW: Education Scholarship Account Program (ESA) Priority Access Window
The priority access window for student ESA applications closes on Wednesday, April 15. After this date, new ESA student applications will be reviewed in the order in which they were received. Once the program reaches capacity, remaining students will be placed on the waitlist and will be notified via AccessIndiana. Contact [ESA@doe.in.gov](#) with any questions.

NEW: Career Scholarship Account Program (CSA) Priority Access Window
The priority access window for student CSA applications closes on Wednesday, April 15. We will begin reviewing and approving applications beginning on Thursday, April 16. Once the program reaches capacity, remaining students will be placed on the waitlist and will be notified via AccessIndiana. Contact [CSA@doe.in.gov](#) with any questions.

NEW: Schools Scholarship Program Spring Payments
All schools should have received their first spring payment earlier this week. For any school needing to submit an appeal for a payment that was not received, please contact the Non-Public School Corporation and federal program updates. The session will be recorded and shared in the Indiana Learning Lab. Register [here](#) to access the meeting. Contact [Title@doe.in.gov](#) with any questions.

Indiana Commission for Higher Education

NEW: Indiana Diploma Implementation Support – Frequently Asked Questions
To support schools with ongoing implementation of the new high school diploma, IDOE and Commission for Higher Education staff have developed a list of Frequently Asked Questions. The document can be found on the [Indiana Diploma webpage](#) or directly accessed [here](#). The document will be updated as new questions emerge or additional guidance becomes available. Contact [cfe@che.in.gov](#) with any questions.

News From Our Partners

NEW FROM THE LILLY ENDOWMENT: Renewal Grants for Indiana K-12 Educators
The Lilly Endowment is accepting applications for its [Teach Creativity Fellowship Program](#). This program supports educators throughout Indiana by providing resources for them to take time for meaningful renewal. The Endowment believes that through new experiences, exploration, and reflection, educators can generate renewed energy in their careers, innovative approaches to teaching and educational leadership, and thoughtful ways to encourage students' creative thinking. The Endowment expects to award approximately 150 grants, each totaling up to \$15,000, in 2027. The application deadline is 6 p.m. ET on Tuesday, September 8. Four information sessions will be held in 2026 on Tuesday, April 14, Thursday, May 7, Thursday, August 6, and Tuesday, August 11. To learn more or register for one of these sessions, visit the Lilly Endowment [website](#). Contact Lilly Endowment staff at [teachcreativity@leli.org](#) with any questions.

NEW FROM AP TIP: Last Round of Remote Teacher Collaboratives Scheduled for Tuesday, April 21
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 online [here](#). Contact [Stephanie.Kucera@doe.in.gov](#) with questions.

NEW FROM EMPOWER SCHOOLS REGIONAL | SPONSORED BY BRITTEBOUND: Meeting the Moment on Diploma Requirements Through Indiana Collaboration
Join Empower Schools Indiana, in partnership with RAZ-32 and regional leaders, are working to meet on Wednesday, April 29, in Union City, IN, for Indiana – a convening focused on how Indiana districts are coming together to address new diploma requirements. As we explore a sea of opportunities to raise the bar, districts across Indiana are turning to cross-sector collaboration to help students earn readiness seats through credentials of value and work-based learning. Participants will hear from state and regional leaders—including the Indiana Department of Education, Ivy Tech Community College, Conexus Indiana, and the Indiana State Chamber—on what's working and how to bring practical strategies back to their communities. Breakfast and lunch will be provided. Access registration details [here](#). Contact [Kately.Lin@empowerschools.org](#) with any questions.

NEW FROM EASTERSEALS CROSSROADS: Assistive Technology (AT) Awareness Day Open House
Celebrate National Assistive Technology Awareness Crossroads' Tour at the event and get hands-on experiences with AT from their INDATA, ATLAS, and Clinical AT teams. Learn how these high- and low-tech tools can assist individuals with academics, independence in employment, life, and more. Hands-on experiences will be provided for attendees, and light refreshments will be provided. Join this in-person event on Wednesday, April 22, from 4 to 6 p.m. ET. For those who are unable to join in person, a remote tour of the program will be available on Wednesday, April 22, at 10 a.m. ET. Learn more [here](#) or contact [Ken.Bridges@doe.in.gov](#) with questions.

NEW FROM THE INDIANA SUPREME COURT: Constitution Day
Judicial officers are available to speak in classrooms or around Thursday, September 17 in celebration of Constitution Day. Consider reaching out to a judge from the [Judicial Speakers Bureau](#) now to make preliminary plans for the fall. For more information on the Judges Speakers Bureau, please contact the Office of Communication, Education, and Outreach at [oceo@courts.in.gov](#).

NEW FROM KEEP INDIANA LEARNING (a department of CIESC): Student-Centered Coaching Opportunities
Keep Indiana Learning is excited to offer a customized suite of student-centered coaching experiences in partnership with Diane Sweeney Consulting. With their first math-focused coaching series launching in April, now is the ideal time to plan your professional learning path for the coming months. These evidence-based sessions move beyond theory, providing participants with actionable techniques to ensure coaching cycles directly benefit student learning outcomes. Join Keep Indiana Learning to gain practical, research-based strategies that empower you to foster a more student-centered culture in your district. Click [here](#) to learn more and register today. Please contact [Keep Indiana Learning](#) with questions.

NEW FROM THE NATIONAL SCIENCE TEACHERS ASSOCIATION (NSTA): National Conference on Science Education Call for Proposals
NSTA will host their [National Conference on Science Education](#) in Indianapolis from Wednesday, November 4, through Saturday, November 7. This conference is an opportunity for Indiana science and STEM educators to share what works, highlight the innovation and impact happening in their classrooms, and contribute to a broader community of science educators. [Calls for Proposals](#) opened on Wednesday, April 1, and will remain open through Monday, May 4. Proposals should reflect the depth and variety of today's science teaching. This includes low-prep, high-impact instructional strategies, three-dimensional teaching and cross-curriculum and assessment, and the use of AI, data, and technology to support career-connected science learning. Proposals that center on high-quality science instruction for multilingual learners and all students, highlight integrated STEM experiences that build durable skills, and address the systems, mentoring structures, and professional conditions that support educators in doing high-quality work and sustaining their practice over time, are also welcomed. Contact [conferences@nsta.org](#) with any questions.

NEW FROM ASCEND INDIANA: Indiana Student-Led Business Coalition Kickoff
Ascend has launched the Indiana Student-Led Business Coalition, a statewide effort to expand high-quality work-based learning opportunities through student-led businesses. This work is aligned with Indiana's new high school diploma, where work-based learning plays an increasingly central role in a student's path to graduation. This session will bring together educators currently running student-led businesses, as well as those interested in launching one. Participants will also receive the Student-Led Business Toolkit to support implementation across schools. The kickoff takes place on Wednesday, May 6, from 10:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Ascend's office in Indianapolis. Register [here](#). Contact [Alex.Magoo@ascend.in.gov](#) with questions.

NEW FROM HANDS IN AUTISM: Art Expo
The HANDS in Autism® Art Expo is a long-standing tradition that has been celebrating the creativity, talent, and unique perspectives of individuals with autism and related disabilities for many years. This inspiring April event highlights artwork from individuals of all ages across Indiana and beyond, showcasing the power of artistic expression in all its forms. Learn more about the Art Expo [here](#). Click [here](#) to learn more about all the upcoming HANDS in Autism® opportunities. Reach out for more information to [hands@iu.edu](#).

NEW FROM THE INDIANA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE: National Civics Bee® Indiana State Finals
The National Civics Bee® Indiana State Finals brings together top middle school students from across the state to demonstrate their knowledge of government, democracy, and community leadership. Hosted by the Indiana Chamber of Commerce, in partnership with the U.S. Chamber of Commerce Foundation, IDOE, and local chambers, the program encourages young Hoosiers to become informed and engaged citizens. The event takes place on Tuesday, June 23, from 2 to 4 p.m. ET at the Indiana War Memorial and Museum in Indianapolis. Registration is free. Contact [Julia.Martinez@chamberofcommerce.org](#) for more information.

REMINDER 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. Participants 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.Kucera@doe.in.gov](#) 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.

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