



Dr. Jenner's Weekly Update

Weekly Newsletter from the Indiana Department of Education

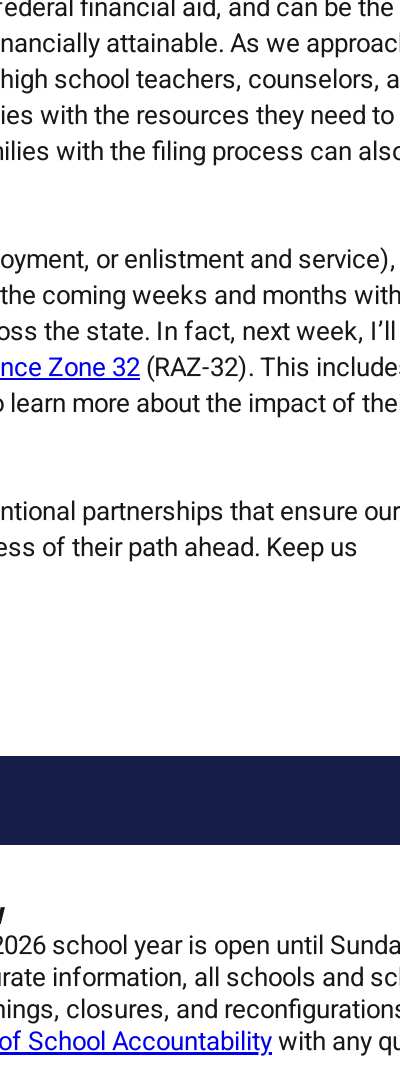
April 11, 2025

A Message from Dr. Katie Jenner

It was certainly another tough weather week in Indiana. Thank you again to our local school leaders for helping to keep our students and schools safe, as multiple communities deal with the aftermath of tornadoes, lingering flood waters, and other severe weather.

As you know, last week Governor Braun announced that Indiana has engaged with partners across the state to ensure our new diploma reading seals provide guaranteed currency for graduates. This ongoing [collaboration and partnership](#) will provide tangible value for students whether they plan to continue their education, go straight into a career, or serve our Nation.

In addition to this exciting announcement for students earning the Enrollment, Employment, and/or Enlistment and Service Honors Plus seal, **Indiana State University (ISU)** also [announced](#) they will award [\\$5,000 scholarships](#) for students who earn the Enrollment Honors Plus seal, in addition to automatic admission. ISU has also committed to automatic admission for students earning the Employment Honors Plus and Enlistment and Service Honors Plus seals with a minimum GPA requirement. Thank you to ISU for their willingness to take another step in eliminating barriers and opening doors of opportunity for Hoosier students.



I also wanted to share a friendly reminder, high school students have just a few more days to complete the [Federal Application for Student Aid \(FAFSA\)](#) for the 2026-2027 academic year. Completing the FAFSA is key to accessing over \$400 million in state financial aid each year, in addition to federal financial aid, and can be the difference-maker that helps make a student's dream of going to college financially attainable. As we approach the filing deadline on Tuesday, April 15, thank you in advance to the many high school teachers, counselors, and school leaders who share reminders and help connect students and families with the resources they need to complete the application. Additional resources to assist students and families with the filing process can also be found [here](#).

To best support students regardless of their path ahead (enrollment, employment, or enlistment and service), we must continue to work together to secure additional partnerships over the coming weeks and months with business and industry, as well as our private colleges and universities across the state. In fact, next week, I'll be visiting east central Indiana to see the impactful work of the [Rural Alliance Zone 32](#) (RAZ-32). This includes meeting with school leaders and local chamber of commerce members to learn more about the impact of their partnership and how they can be an example for other communities.

As a state, we will continue to elevate your local examples and create intentional partnerships that ensure our diploma readiness seals have tangible value for Indiana students, regardless of their path ahead. Keep us posted about the good work happening in your area!

Thank you, as always, for all that you do for our students.

Office of Accountability

REMINDER: School and Corporation Profile Amendment Window

The school and corporation profile amendment submission window for the 2025-2026 school year is open until Sunday, August 31. In order to ensure the Indiana Department of Education (IDOE) maintains accurate information, all schools and school 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 School Accountability](#) with any questions.

Office of Assessment

NEW: ILEARN ELA Performance Task Student Writing Samples

IDOE collaborated with a sample of school corporations to collect student responses for the new ELA Performance Tasks. These student responses have been scored using the new [ELA Writing Rubrics](#) and are available to view [here](#). IDOE will continue to build out this repository across grades and genres as new released items become available. Contact IDOE's [Office of Student Assessment](#) with any questions.

NEW: IREAD Office Hours

Join members of the Literacy Center, Office of Student Assessment, and Office of Special Education to review legislation and commonly asked questions regarding IREAD testing, Good Cause Exemptions (GCEs), and summer school. These sessions will not include the responsibilities discussed during Q&A sessions specifically designed for Corporation Test Coordinators. Sessions will take place on:

- [Wednesday, April 16, from 3:30 to 4:30 p.m. ET](#)
- [Wednesday, April 23, from 3:30 to 4:30 p.m. ET](#)

Contact IDOE's [Office of Student Assessment](#) with any questions.

REMINDER: ILEARN 3-8, ILEARN Biology End-of-Course Assessment (ECA), & ILEARN U.S. Government ECA Spring 2025 Testing Windows Open Monday, April 14

The ILEARN 3-8 Spring 2025 online testing window is Monday, April 14, through Friday, May 9. The ILEARN Biology and U.S. Government ECA Spring 2025 online testing window is Monday, April 15, through Friday, May 17. 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 [ILEARN 2024-2025 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 Educator Talent & Literacy Center

REMINDER: 2025-2026 Annual K-8 School Reading Plan

Indiana [Code \(IC\) 20-32-8.5](#) and [11 Indiana Administrative Code \(IAC\) 6.2-3.1](#) require schools with students enrolled in kindergarten through grade eight to submit an annual reading plan to IDOE by Monday, June 30. IDOE's Literacy Center released the 2025 [annual reading plan guidance](#). Contact IDOE's [Literacy Center](#) with additional questions.

REMINDER: Keys to Literacy Completion

Educators have until Monday, June 30, to complete all asynchronous coursework through Keys to Literacy to maintain stipend eligibility. For help accessing your course, please see [FAQs](#) or directions on [FAQs](#) for [Logtable](#). Contact [Keys to Literacy options](#). The Indiana Teacher of the Year Program works to inspire, rejuvenate, and celebrate the teaching profession by recognizing outstanding teachers from across the state. Local schools are encouraged to participate in an annual selection process and local Teacher(s) of the Year are encouraged to complete the state application process by Monday, July 7. More information on the 2026 Indiana Teacher of the Year selection process can be found [here](#). For more information contact [info@doe.in.gov](#).

REMINDER: Nominations Now Open for the 2026 RISE Classified Staff Award

Teachers, charter, and non-public schools across the state are encouraged to nominate up to two classified school employees for the [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-kindergarten through high school. The deadline to submit nominations is Monday, July 7, at 5 p.m. ET. Nominations can be submitted via [JoinForm](#). Contact IDOE's [Office of Educator Talent](#) with any questions.

REMINDER: 2026 Teacher of the Year Application is Now Available

Teachers, charter, and non-public schools across the state are encouraged to participate in an annual selection process and local Teacher(s) of the Year are encouraged to complete the state application process by Monday, July 7. More information on the 2026 Indiana Teacher of the Year selection process can be found [here](#). For more information contact [info@doe.in.gov](#).

REMINDER: Applications for Spanish Visiting Teacher Program

Details for the SY 2025-2026 Spanish Visiting Teacher Program can be found [here](#), or to learn more about the responsibilities of being a host school please click [here](#). If you were unable to attend the informational webinar you can view the recording [here](#). Districts can express interest by completing the application form online. Contact IDOE's [Office of Educator Talent](#) with any questions.

REMINDER: Nominations Open for the Indiana History Teacher of the Year Award

In partnership with IDOE, the [Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History](#) awards the Indiana History Teacher of the Year title each year in its effort to promote the study and love of American history. State winners are then considered for the National History Teacher of the Year award. For more information about the nomination process and to nominate an Indiana history teacher, click [here](#). Nominations must be submitted by Wednesday, April 30. Contact IDOE's [Office of Educator Talent](#) with any questions.

REMINDER: Early Literacy Endorsement Professional Development (PD) & Praxis Voucher Request

Educators who hold an Indiana professional educator license can register [here](#) for the flexible [Keys to Literacy options](#). Educators planning to earn Indiana's Early Literacy Endorsement can follow the process outlined [here](#) to submit a request to verify completion of the approved 80 hours and request a Praxis voucher, if needed. Contact IDOE's [Literacy Center](#) with questions.

REMINDER: Additional Opportunities to Recognize Indiana Educators

Throughout the year, numerous opportunities arise nationwide to acknowledge the incredible work of Indiana educators. IDOE's Office of Educator Talent has developed [this document](#) which will be updated periodically with external opportunities to recognize educators. To submit an educator recognition opportunity not listed, contact IDOE's [Office of Educator Talent](#).

Office of Information Technology

REMINDER: 2025 School Tech Plan Survey Now Open

The 2025 School Tech Plan Survey is now available to be completed for all Indiana school corporations, charter schools, and non-public schools. The survey will be open through Friday, April 18. Completion of this survey is a requirement for all public schools to qualify for the connectivity formula grant, the common school fund, and grants from IDOE's Office of Academics. While not required, non-public schools are encouraged to complete the survey to help other schools identify best practices. The survey can be completed [here](#). Previous year public data may be found in the [Digital Readiness Dashboard](#) or through [EdData](#). Contact [Brad Hagg](#) with any questions.

Office of School Finance

NEW: April Tuition Support Payment

Review [this memo](#) regarding the Tuesday, April 15, tuition support payment. Contact IDOE's [Office of School Finance](#) with any questions.

Office of School Support and Transformation

REMINDER: Request for Information (RFI) for Next Generation School Improvement Grant (Next Gen SIG) Prioritized Expert Partners Now Open

IDOE's Office of School Support and Transformation is now accepting applications for Prioritized Expert Partners for the Next Gen SIG. IDOE seeks prioritized expert partners that demonstrate a strong commitment to a transformative vision for the schools in the Next Gen SIG program. These partners will have a theory of change that prioritized rigorous analysis, partnership, and commitment to systemic reform over one-size-fits-all or pre-planned interventions and/or solutions. Interested applicants can find the application and other pertinent information about this opportunity on the [Indiana Department of Administration \(IDOA\) Current Business Opportunities](#) page. Contact [KMarch@doe.in.gov](#) with any questions.

REMINDER: Next Gen SIG Now Open

Next Gen SIG is a competitive grant for school transformation. Eligibility for this grant extends to all schools currently identified as Targeted Support and Improvement (TSI) and Comprehensive Support and Improvement (CSI) under Indiana's ESSA Plan. Interested school officials can read more about the grant program in the [Next Gen SIG memo](#). A list of eligible schools can be found [here](#). IDOE's Office of School Support and Transformation will be accepting applications through Friday, May 30, with finalists announced mid-summer. A PDF version of the application can be found [here](#). The scoring rubric for the application can be found [here](#). The online application can be found [here](#). Contact IDOE's [Office of School Support and Transformation](#) with any questions.

REMINDER: Annual 1003 Flexibility Waivers

IDOE's Office of School Support and Transformation is now [accepting applications](#) for 1003 Flexibility Waivers. Flexibility through waivers is offered to help support schools in their design efforts to improve student performance and outcomes, improve the efficiency of school operations, and promote innovative educational approaches to student learning. Interested officials can read more about the opportunity in the [memo](#) and the [Flexibility Guide for Indiana's K-12 Schools](#). Applications are now open and will be accepted on a rolling basis through Friday, April 25. Contact [Georgia Watson](#) with any questions.

Office of Student Pathways and Opportunities

NEW: 2024-2025 School Year Graduation Pathways Webinar

The April Graduation Pathways webinar will take place on Thursday, April 17. The topic for this webinar is Career Scholarship Accounts. Please access [this](#) document for all 2024-2025 school year webinar dates, times, and links. Contact IDOE's [Office of Student Pathways](#) with additional questions.

REMINDER: New Indiana Diploma Implementation Support, Final Course Eligibility

As Indiana transitions to the [new high school diploma](#), IDOE has developed [this guidance](#) on eligible courses to support planning for the 2025-2026 school year. Contact IDOE's [Office of Student Pathways and Opportunities](#) with any questions.

REMINDER: 2025-2026 Locally Created Pathway Applications Now Open

Schools may apply to develop Locally Created Pathways (LCPs) and related assessments for students to demonstrate college- and career-readiness. These LCPs augment the current list of Postsecondary-Ready Competencies already included in the established policy. Any districts seeking to submit an application for a new LCP beginning in the 2025-2026 school year should review the application process document, its rubric and scoring guide, as well as the approved current LCP list. Review the resource below.

- [New LCP Application](#)
- [LCP Application Rubric & Scoring Sheet](#)
- [Approved LCPs](#)
- [Adopting LCPs Guidance](#)
- [Adopting an Approved LCP Notification Form](#)
- [LCP Informational Webinar](#)

Applications close on Wednesday, April 30. Contact IDOE's [Office of Student Pathways](#) with additional questions.

Office of Special Education, English Learning, and Migrant Education

NEW: English Learner (EL) Exit Criteria Training on Thursday, May 24

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, May 24, from 3 to 4:30 E.T. The training will occur alongside the release of updated guidance, which will feature the review process for students taking Alternate ACCESS and include other key updates for students taking standard ACCESS. The training link can be found on the [Indiana EL Professional Development Opportunities Calendar](#). Contact IDOE's [Office of English Learning and Migrant Education](#) with questions.

NEW: Certificate of Multilingual Proficiency (CoMP) Participation Deadline Extended Through Monday, April 14

The Certificate of Multilingual Proficiency (CoMP), Indiana's Seal of Bilingualty, is awarded to seniors who demonstrate high levels of proficiency in English and another language. School corporations or public schools intending on participating in Indiana's CoMP must renew their registration annually. Those wishing to participate in the 2024-2025 school year must sign up using [this form](#) by Monday, April 14. 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: 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 use descriptions that Indiana will use to fulfill IDEA Part B requirements. Access the application on IDOE's [Special Education webpage](#) for review, and feedback may be submitted as a [Public Comment for Part B](#) through Monday, 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 from July 1, 2025, through September 30, 2027. Contact IDOE's [Office of Special Education Part B team](#) with any questions.

REMINDER: Science of Reading for English Learners Guide

The Office of English Learning and Migrant Education is pleased to share a new resource: [Science of Reading for English Learners](#) (ELs). This resource, geared toward teachers of ELs, provides a guide to the science of reading as it relates to students' English language development. It can be found on [IDOE's English Learning webpage](#) as well as the [Indiana English Learners Community Moodle](#). Contact IDOE's [Office of English Learning and Migrant Education](#) with questions.

REMINDER: Special Education Behavioral Grant Recipients Announced

The recipients of the [2025-2026 Behavior Grant](#) from IDOE's Office of Special Education have been released. The grant allows school corporations and charters opportunities through funding to improve the behavioral skills of students with disabilities. Contact IDOE's [osebehaviorgrant@doe.in.gov](#) with questions.

REMINDER: Aspiring Special Education Leadership Institute (ASELI)

The Indiana Council of Special Education Leadership Institute (CASELI) offers a leadership development program that prepares educators for special education leadership roles to improve outcomes for all students. ASELI is currently [accepting applications for cohort five](#). ASELI is composed of teachers, school psychologists, counselors, and principals who aspire to be special education administrators and are committed to a career in special education leadership. ASELI is not available for currently-licensed special education directors. Contact [IGAS@doe.in.gov](#) or the [Office of Special Education](#) with any questions.

REMINDER: Changes to Monitoring Procedures

These changes are necessary to maintain compliance and ensure that students receive high-quality services. IDOE will provide resources and support for LEAs through this transition. Further details regarding the updated process, including School Social Work (SSW), practicing a school social worker, position or equivalent school position, member of the Indiana School Social Work Association, two or more years experience as a school social worker, commitment to the position that extends beyond the expected duties of the school social work position, and outstanding achievements in professional growth. Nominations must be submitted by Friday, May 2. Contact [INSSWA](#) with any questions.

NEW: Artificial Intelligence (AI) Professional Development (PD) Series

Join Indy Ignite and Teach Indy as we make history with Indiana's first pro women's volleyball team! We want to say thank you to teachers for all you do for students—celebrate with us at Teacher Appreciation Night on Friday, April 25, at 7 p.m. at the Fishers Event Center. Grab your discounted tickets now and be part of the excitement! Purchase Tickets [here](#). If you are a school leader or community partner interested in bringing a group of 10 or more to this event, contact [Marie Butler](#).

REMINDER: Digital Learning Grant and Digital Intervention Training & Implementation Grant

Two grant opportunities are now available and accepting applications until Friday, May 16. The [2025 Digital Learning Grant](#) and the [Indiana Digital Intervention Training and Implementation Grant](#). Contact IDOE's [Office of Digital Learning](#) with any questions.

REMINDER: Register Now for Digital Learning Coach Camp on Tuesday, April 22

Digital learning coaches are invited to join IDOE for Digital Learning Coach Camp on Tuesday, April 22, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. ET at Central Indiana Educational Service Center (IESC). This professional learning opportunity, specifically for those in instructional technology coaching roles, is a round-table style, one-day conference. This year we are excited to welcome Matt Miller, who will provide a keynote and facilitate collaboration among attendees. This event is free, and participants will be released for a lunch break. Register for this opportunity [here](#). Contact IDOE's [Office of Digital Learning](#) with any questions.

REMINDER: Fall 2025 K-12 Early Learning Assessment System - Kindergarten Readiness Assessment (KRA) and ISPROUT

As part of Indiana's [system to measure and support kindergarten readiness](#), Indiana's KRA will be available to all public, charter, and non-public schools as an opt-in assessment for fall 2025 kindergarten students. The [opt-in window is now open](#) through Friday, April 25. ISPROUT will continue to be required for children in special education for ages three through five, but the [opt-in window for all three through five students](#) for fall 2025 is also open, as well. If you participated in the KRA or ISPROUT in 2024, you must still complete a form for 2025. Contact IDOE's [Office of Kindergarten Readiness](#) with any questions.

Office of Title Grants and Support

NEW: ESSER Data Collection

On Tuesday, April 8, the U.S. Department of Education shared [this notice](#) with state education agencies regarding data collection for ESSER, GEER, and EANS. Please contact [Frank Chiki](#) with any questions.

REMINDER: Quality Counts II Grant Announcement

The Charter School team is pleased to announce the availability of the Quality Counts II GAN Waiver Cohort. Follow this [link](#) to see the list of awarded schools. Contact [Abby Litterell](#) with any questions.

REMINDER: Title Grants and Support Summer School Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

IDOE's Office of Title Grants and Support have developed guidance for LEAs using federal grants to support summer school programming. Review the FAQ document [here](#). Contact your Federal Grants Specialist with any questions.

Indiana Commission for Higher Education

REMINDER: Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) Deadline on Tuesday, April 15

The 2025-2026 FAFSA deadline is rapidly approaching. Filing the FAFSA is key to accessing \$400 million in state and billions of dollars in federal aid that can be used for education and training after high school. Indiana's deadline for filing the FAFSA each year is April 15. Students can file the FAFSA online at [studentaid.gov](#). Information needed to complete the FAFSA includes:

- StudentAid.gov Account (FSA ID)
- Federal income tax returns, W-2s, and other records of money earned from 2023
- List of any federal benefits received
- Asset information including bank statements and records of investments (if applicable)
- Records of untaxed income (if applicable)

The Commission's outreach coordinators are available to assist students and families in the filing process. Outreach coordinators are strategically located in eight geographic regions in Indiana and can help students, families, and educators with questions about state financial aid and filing the FAFSA. To send a direct message to your region's Outreach Coordinator, visit [learnmoreindiana.org/contact](#).

News From Our Partners

NEW FROM THE OFFICE OF U.S. SENATOR TODD YOUNG: Virtual Academy Day

Each year, members of Congress have the privilege of recommending a select group of individuals for admission to the U.S. service academies. Senator Young is honored to nominate a number of highly-qualified young men and women to the nation's service academies. On Monday, April 28, Senator Young will host a virtual academy day from 6:30 to 8 p.m. ET. This information session is planned for students interested in learning more about America's service academies. Representatives from each academy will be available to answer questions. While attendance is certainly not required to obtain a nomination, representatives present at Academy Day can help attend specific questions potential applicants may have about a particular academy or the congressional nominations process. To RSVP, contact [Academy.Nominations@young.senate.gov](#).

NEW FROM THE ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION ASSOCIATION OF INDIANA: Bringing Calumet Youth Outdoors - Outdoor Learning Professional Development

No matter what subject you teach or where your school is located, there are ways to incorporate outdoor education into your curriculum - and amazing benefits to doing so. On Saturday, May 10, the Environmental Education Associations of Indiana and Illinois are teaming up to bring this [outdoor learning professional development event](#) to outdoor educators, administrators and support staff. Participants will explore strategies for incorporating environmental and outdoor education into their students' learning experience regardless of green space access and will receive hands-on training in sample lessons from Project WET, Project WILD and Project Learning Tree. Professional Growth Plan (PGP) points will be available to participating educators.

NEW FROM THE ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION ASSOCIATION OF INDIANA: Choose Your Own EE Adventure - A Day of Place-Based Learning

The Environmental Education Association of Indiana is partnering with Riverside Intermediate School to bring a unique professional development experience to central Indiana on Saturday, April 26. [Choose Your Own EE Adventure: A Day of Place-Based Learning](#) will give participants the opportunity to tour Riverside Intermediate's property and extensive outdoor education spaces, meeting with teachers, students, and program partners along the way. Participants will also have the chance to attend sessions on a variety of topics throughout the day, designed to equip educators to implement more outdoor, environmental education, and place-based learning activities. Lunch is provided and PGP points will be available for participating educators.

NEW FROM THE ASVAB CAREER EXPLORATION PROGRAM (CEP): 2024-2025 National Financial Literacy Month

Future planning starts today! Help students build financial literacy and set goals for success. ASVAB focuses on financial literacy, goal setting and ASVAB CEP resources. More information can be found [here](#).

NEW FROM THE INDIANA CTO COUNCIL: CTO of the Year Award Nominations Now Open

The Indiana CTO of the Year Award recognizes outstanding leadership and innovation in the field of K-12 educational technology. The award will be given to a Chief Technology Officer (CTO), Chief Information Officer (CIO), technology director, or technology coordinator at an Indiana school or school corporation who has demonstrated exceptional leadership and dedication to improving teaching and learning through the use of technology.

- Nominees must be currently employed as a CTO, CIO, technology director, or technology coordinator at an Indiana school or school corporation.
- Nominees must have at least three years of experience in their current role.
- Nominees must be nominated by their superintendent, assistant superintendent, or charter/private school district director.
- Preference will be given to candidates from schools and school corporations with an active CoSN institutional membership and those that have attained the [CETL Certification](#).

Nominations are due by Friday, April 18. The selected candidate will be recognized at the [IN CTO Clinic on Thursday, May 1 and Friday, May 2, in Noblesville](#).

NEW FROM COSN: Gen AI District Leaders Action Summit

CoSN invites district cabinet-level teams to join us for the first-ever Gen AI District Leaders Action Summit, from Tuesday, May 20, to Thursday, May 22, in Indianapolis. This year's summit will host hands-on sessions designed to help school districts assess their readiness for Generative AI, unlock its possibilities and risks, and take the next steps in their AI strategy. Participating school systems will gain experience using the [CoSN/CGCS Gen AI Maturity Tool](#) to gauge their current readiness across seven domains, including Leadership, Operations, Data, Technology, Security, Legal, and Academic AI Literacy. Using their mission, vision, values, and supporting documents, districts will develop an understanding of the current state of their AI adoption, define a future state, and develop a prioritized six- or 12-month roadmap for moving their district towards a higher level of AI maturity. [Learn more and register here](#).

NEW FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN INDIANA: QUANTITATIVE REASONING CONFERENCE

The University of Southern Indiana's Mathematical Sciences Department will host its annual Quantitative Reasoning Conference on Tuesday, June 17, through Wednesday, June 18, on the USI campus in Evansville. This conference is intended for Indiana public high school teachers who offer a Quantitative Reasoning course, are planning to offer it in the future, or want to learn more about teaching Quantitative Reasoning. Participating teachers will receive a \$240 stipend to attend and hotel accommodations will be provided for two nights for individuals who live more than 60 miles from Evansville. Applications must be received by Friday, May 2. Find more information and register [here](#). The conference is sponsored by a grant from the Indiana Commission for Higher Education's STEM Teacher Recruitment Fund.

NEW FROM THE READING LEAGUE INDIANA: Science of Reading Experts Explain Series

In its next live Expert Explain series on Thursday, April 17, Dr. Sarah Brown will present Leveraging System-Level Data for Reading Growth. This session will provide participants with ways to consider system-level data and essential questions to drive reading growth. In addition, participants will learn actionable strategies to implement targeted improvements across schools and be empowered to analyze and act on reading data in meaningful ways. All sessions will be recorded and shared in the Indiana Learning Lab. See registration details [here](#). Contact IDOE's [Literacy Center](#) with any questions.

NEW FROM INSSWA: Nominations Open for School Social Worker of the Year

To nominate a school social worker, please complete the [Google Form](#) and attach one letter of recommendation written by a school administrator or colleague. The letter of recommendation must address the following award eligibility criteria: LSW or CSW at the Master's degree level, Indiana Department of Education Student Services License, content area: School Social Work (SSW), practicing a school social worker, position or equivalent school position, member of the Indiana School Social Work Association, two or more years experience as a school social worker, commitment to the position that extends beyond the expected duties of the school social work position, and outstanding achievements in professional growth. Nominations must be submitted by Friday, May 2. Contact [INSSWA](#) with any questions.

REMINDER FROM THE LILLY ENDOWMENT: Renewal Grants for Indiana K-12 Educators

The Lilly Endowment is accepting applications for its [Teacher 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 125 grants, each totaling up to \$15,000, in 2026. The application deadline is 6 p.m. ET on Monday, September 8. Four information sessions will be held in 2025:

- Thursday, April 17,
- Thursday, April 24,
- Thursday, August 7, and
- Tuesday, August 19

To learn more or register for one of these sessions, visit the [Lilly Endowment website](#). Contact Lilly Endowment staff at [teachcreativity@lel.org](#) with any questions.

REMINDER FROM TEACH INDY: Indy Ignite Volleyball Teacher Appreciation Night

Join Indy Ignite and Teach Indy as we make history with Indiana's first pro women's volleyball team! We want to say thank you to teachers for all you do for students—celebrate with us at Teacher Appreciation Night on Friday, April 25, at 7 p.m. at the Fishers Event Center. Grab your discounted tickets now and be part of the excitement! Purchase Tickets [here](#). If you are a school leader or community partner interested in bringing a group of 10 or more to this event, contact [Marie Butler](#).