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INDIANA
DEPARTMENT of
EDUCATION

Dr. Jenner's Weekly Update

Weekly Newsletter from the Indiana Department of Education

April 24, 2026

A Message from Dr. Katie Jenner

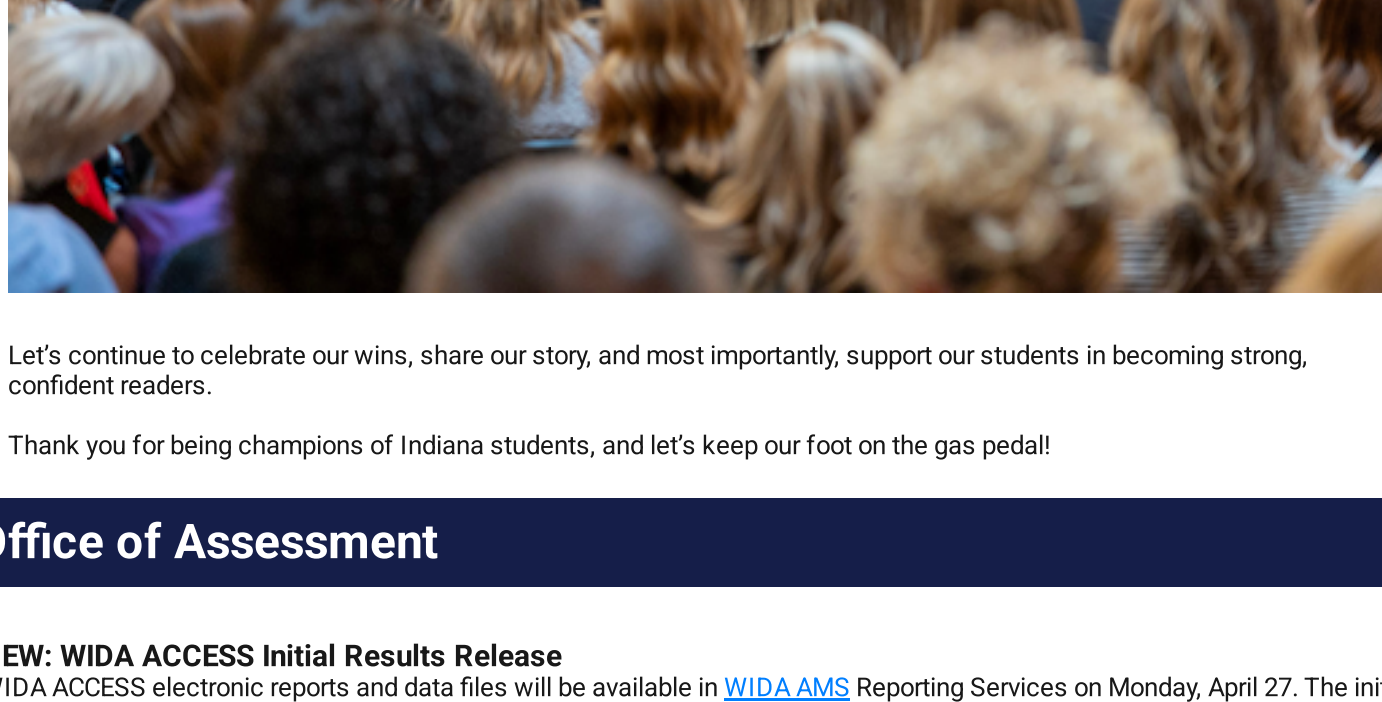
Earlier this month, the NCAA Men's Basketball Champions were crowned in Indianapolis, and just a couple days later, we gathered to celebrate another kind of champion—our state's **literacy champions!**

Each year, we invite all schools that meet the state's 95% reading goal to the Statehouse. This year, we had so many schools achieve this milestone (**over 400...** or more than one-third of all schools serving third graders!), that we expanded the celebration into two ceremonies, one in the morning and one in the afternoon. And this wasn't the only new aspect of the event...for the first time, we invited multiple schools to share their stories as part of the program.

From our large cities to small towns, it was so inspiring to hear how educators are helping children unlock one of the most important skills they will ever learn. A special shoutout to these speakers, including:

- **Dr. Mark Heiden**, principal at Creekside Elementary School in Franklin Community Schools
- **Michele Houser**, a literacy coach at Rossville Elementary School
- **Dr. Brandon Foster**, principal at Irwin STEM Magnet School
- **Ashley Kitts**, principal at Switzerland County Elementary School

Check out a video below, and click [here](#) to view photos from this important celebration!



Let's continue to celebrate our wins, share our story, and most importantly, support our students in becoming strong, confident readers.

Thank you for being champions of Indiana students, and let's keep our foot on the gas pedal!

Office of Assessment

NEW: WIDA ACCESS Initial Results Release

WIDA ACCESS electronic reports and data files will be available in [WIDA AMS](#) Reporting Services on Monday, April 27. The initial results release also includes printed reports which will arrive on Thursday, May 14. Data discrepancies identified and corrected by corporations and schools during pre-reporting data validation will be reflected in the initial results. Review and share results in a timely manner. Contact the Indiana Department of Education's (IDOE's) [Office of Student Assessment](#) with any questions.

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

NEW: Indiana's Priorities and Next Steps for Data Science Education

Indiana is prioritizing data science education to prepare students for a workplace and world driven by data. The [Indiana's Priorities for Data Science](#) report summarizes feedback from the December 2025 Indiana Data Science Summit and outlines a response to [legislation](#) creating a data science math pathway. Join a [session with IDOE's Office of STEM](#) in the Indiana Learning Lab on Friday, May 1, at 4 p.m. ET to hear a summary of the report. The session will discuss Indiana's progress and next steps in data science education, including a proposal for a data science pilot program for SY 2027-2028. Contact IDOE's [Office of Curriculum and Instruction](#) with any questions.

REMINDER: Update Corporation iCAP Contact

The Indiana Course Access Portal (iCAP) provides students across the state with access to hundreds of online courses from approved providers. Review the [iCAP School Handout](#) for an overview of Indiana's Course Access Portal. Each school corporation must verify its designated iCAP contact. One confirmed contact per corporation is mandatory. Review your current listing on the [iCAP Contact webpage](#). District leaders must submit any updates using [this form](#) by today, Friday, April 24. Contact iCAP@doe.in.gov with any questions.

REMINDER: STEM Certified Schools Quarterly Meeting

The final 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 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.

REMINDER: Participants Needed for Indiana's K-12 Mathematics Standards and Content Connector Review Committees

IDOE's Office of Curriculum and Instruction is recruiting educators and other stakeholders to join committees that will review the Indiana Academic Standards and Content Connectors for K-12 mathematics. Complete and submit [this form](#) by 11:45 p.m. ET on Friday, May 1, for consideration. IDOE will review all submissions and select participants based on many criteria (e.g., teaching experience, current role, student populations served) to help maximize representativeness of each committee. Contact IDOE's [Office of Curriculum and Instruction](#) with any questions.

REMINDER: 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 to expand opportunities to increase interest and improve skills in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) through participation in competitive robotics programs. View the [recording](#), [slides](#), and [FAQ](#) from last week's virtual information session to learn more about the grant and application process. Interested applicants are encouraged to apply [here](#) by 11:45 p.m. ET on Friday, May 15. Contact TLgrants@doe.in.gov with any questions related to the grant. Contact the [SBA Grants Management Team](#) for assistance navigating or using the EUNA portal.

Office of Educator Talent and Literacy Center

NEW: Hiring teachers? A new, free recruitment resource is available

As of 2026, all Indiana public schools have access to a new resource from [Nimble](#) that proactively matches your schools with qualified teacher job seekers searching in your area. Districts with teacher vacancies for the 2026-2027 school year can [sign up here](#) for a call with our partners at Nimble to learn more and opt in to access these candidates. Costs are fully covered by IDOE, so this important recruitment resource is free to all Indiana public schools.

REMINDER: Recommendations for Distinguished Educator Recognition Closes Today

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 11:45 p.m. ET today, Friday, April 24. Contact IDOE's [Office of Educator Talent](#) with any questions.

REMINDER: Keys to Literacy Completion and Registration

Educators must complete all asynchronous coursework through Keys to Literacy by Monday, June 1. For help accessing your course, please see this [PDF](#) of directions and FAQs for [Teachable](#). Contact [Keys to Literacy](#) with any questions regarding your online course. Those who are not yet enrolled in a Keys to Literacy course, have until Friday, May 1, to register. Click [here](#) to register. Contact IDOE's [Literacy Center](#) with questions.

REMINDER: Word Connections: A Multisyllabic Word Reading Program ©

This [word reading program](#) is designed for students in third grade and above who need support in automaticity with multisyllabic "big" words. The materials are open source, free to use, and now available in the [Adolescent Literacy Hub](#) of the Indiana Learning Lab. Contact IDOE's [Literacy Center](#) with any questions.

Office of School Finance

REMINDER: 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: Virtual WIDA Workshop - WIDA ACCESS Score Reports for Instruction

IDOE's English Learning team is hosting a virtual workshop, facilitated by WIDA, titled "WIDA ACCESS Score Reports for Instruction." This offering provides an overview of WIDA ACCESS score reports for educators who have administered WIDA ACCESS assessments in grades K-12 as well as how they can be used to drive instruction and make programmatic decisions. This session will occur Thursday, May 7, from 3:30 to 5:00 p.m. ET. Registration is NOT required. Instructions on how to join are shared in the [Indiana EL Professional Development Opportunities Calendar](#). Please contact IDOE's [Office of English Learning and Migrant Education](#) with questions.

NEW: Important Changes to Medicaid Administrative Claiming (InMAC)

Beginning July 1, program requirements will change to align with updated federal guidance from the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS). Key changes include:

- Required enrollment as an Indiana Medicaid provider. Please see the [Medicaid Enrollment memo](#).
- InMAC Quarterly procedural changes. Please see the [IndianaMAC Updates memo](#).

Contact schoolmedicaid@doe.in.gov with any questions.

REMINDER: 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: 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 [Jofform](#) 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: 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' annual registration packet. Schools must keep this survey on file until the following year. Upon receipt of positive responses to 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 on the [MEP webpage](#). Contact IDOE's [Office of English Learners 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 IPRC sessions to learn more about evaluation reporting, the ATLAS Project and the Assistive Technology Lending Library, the AERL will discuss 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, new to their positions within the last three years, to ask questions and gain additional information following the Directors Symposium.

Specific information, including dates, times, and registration information, can be found [here](#). Please direct any questions about director outreach opportunities to spedassistance@doe.in.gov.

REMINDER: FY2027 Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) Part B Grant Data Verification

The data verification process for the FY2027 Part B Grant has now been initiated and notifications have been sent to all Special Education Directors. This is an important opportunity for each LEA to carefully review the counts that will determine both the Part B allocations and the proportionate share multipliers ahead of the grant's official opening on July 1. Please take some time to thoroughly examine the data verification materials and submit any updates or corrections through the [Grant Management System](#) by Friday, May 1.

REMINDER: 2026-2027 School Year RoboKind Grant Opportunity

Through House Enrolled Act 1001 (2025), IDOE offers the RoboKind Grant opportunity for select corporations and schools to purchase robotic technology and provide professional development endorsed by the Council of Administrators of Special Education (CASE) to improve the social and behavioral skills for students with autism. RoboKind's programs are delivered by engaging virtual avatars. While the programs no longer require a physical robot, districts currently implementing the robot-led program may continue using their robots if they apply for a renewal. Existing partner districts will also receive access to the virtual avatar-led programs, in addition to their current robot-led implementations. RoboKind supports research-based curriculum across social skills and phonics. Information, applications, and the budget template can be found [here](#). Email the signed application and budget template to robokind@doe.in.gov. Contact robokind@doe.in.gov with additional questions.

Office of Title Grants and Support

REMINDER: Federal Programs Quarterly Meeting

The quarterly meeting originally scheduled for Thursday, May 7, has been moved to Thursday, April 30, from 10 a.m. to noon ET. The meeting is now open for registration via [Jofform](#) Pre-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: Choice Scholarship Program Regional Meetings

Choice specialists will be hosting regional meetings in May. Meetings will begin at 9 a.m. local time. The dates and locations can be found on the [registration form](#). Registration is open until noon the day prior to each meeting date. Please contact ChoiceSchool@doe.in.gov with any questions.

REMINDER: ESA Priority Access Window Now Closed

The priority window for ESA student applications closed on Wednesday, April 15. Families who submitted during this time will receive an update on their application by Friday, April 24. After priority applications are reviewed, new applications will be reviewed in the order in which they were received. If a student cannot be approved initially because the program has reached capacity, the student will be placed on the wait list and notified via AccessIndiana. Contact esa@doe.in.gov with any questions.

REMINDER: CSA Priority Access Window Now Closed

The priority window for CSA student applications closed on Wednesday, April 15. Approval of student applications is now underway. Students should receive confirmation of their application status by Friday, April 24. Applications that do not initially receive approval due to program capacity will be placed on a waitlist in the order in which they were received. To be fully enrolled in the program, CSA program providers must verify enrollment by Monday, June 1. Students who are not fully enrolled by this deadline may be ineligible for funding and/or subject to removal from the program. Contact csa@doe.in.gov with any questions.

Indiana Commission for Higher Education

REMINDER: New Prairie High School Named a 2025 School of Excellence by ACT's American College Application Campaign

The Indiana Commission for Higher Education (Commission) announced New Prairie 25th School as Indiana's American College Application Campaign (ACAC) School of Excellence Award winner. Indiana joins 25 other states in celebrating exemplary schools dedicated to increasing postsecondary success, specifically for first-generation college students. Awardees are selected based on their participation in their state's college application campaign. New Prairie High School earned the School of Excellence Award for building an increased awareness of the opportunities and benefits of going to college for all grade levels. In addition to daily trivia contests and a spirit week, the school launched the College Bound Cougars program, offering grade-specific lessons on college exploration, financial aid, admissions, career planning, and test preparation for all students in grades nine through 12. Every student completed multiple career interest inventories, as well as preparation sessions for the PSAT and SAT. During College Application Week, New Prairie's seniors submitted 376 college applications. Read the press release [here](#).

News From Our Partners

NEW FROM KEEP INDIANA LEARNING (a department of CIESC): AI Symposium

Empower your leadership team to navigate the evolving landscape of artificial intelligence at this year's AI Symposium: "Leading the Shift." This statewide event takes place on Tuesday, May 12, at The Pyramids in Indianapolis as well as moving beyond basic AI tools toward systemic integration that supports academic rigor and differentiation. Whether you are a building administrator, tech coordinator, or instructional coach, you will benefit from expert-led breakout sessions and strategic planning resources. [Learn more and register today](#), as seats are limited. Contact [Keep Indiana Learning](#) with questions.

NEW FROM THE PASS PROJECT: 2026 Summer Institute for Educational Interpreters

Registration is now open for the 2026 Summer Institute for Educational Interpreters! This two-day training supports K-12 educational interpreters in strengthening professional role clarity, preparation and collaboration strategies, and student-centered decision-making. The sessions emphasize self-awareness, reflective interpreting practices, and sustainable approaches to supporting meaningful access over time.

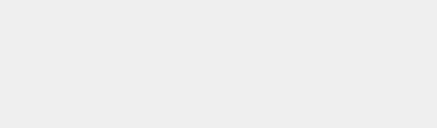
Learn more from Tia Ivanko, M.S., NIC, ADAC on Tuesday, July 21, and Wednesday, July 22, at The Wellington in Fishers. To learn more and register visit the PASS Project's website [here](#).

REMINDER: National Science Teachers Association (NSTA) National Conference on Science Education Call for Proposals

NSTA will host their [National Conference on Science Education](#) in Indianapolis on 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, June 1. Proposals should reflect the depth and variety of today's science teaching. This includes low-prep, high-impact instructional strategies; three-dimensional teaching across 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.

REMINDER FROM PURDUE UNIVERSITY COMPUTER SCIENCE OUTREACH: 2026 Summer and Fall Computer Science Professional Development Opportunities

Purdue Computer Science Outreach is offering a series of hands-on professional development sessions for educators at all experience levels. Opportunities include beginner sessions for those new to computer science, as well as middle and high school sessions focused on Indiana's Next Level Programs of Study course, 4565 Computing Foundations for a Digital Age, artificial intelligence, and robotics. All sessions are designed to be practical, classroom-ready, and include take-home resources for teachers. View full details and register [here](#). Contact jdhomps@purdue.edu with questions.



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