



INDIANA
DEPARTMENT of
EDUCATION

Dr. Jenner's Weekly Update

Weekly Newsletter from the Indiana Department of Education

May 1, 2026

A Message from Dr. Katie Jenner

As we kick off the month of May, schools across Indiana are heading into the final weeks of the 2025-2026 school year. This is a month filled with end of year celebrations - academic achievement awards ceremonies... band, choir, and orchestra concerts... student art shows... athletic events... and, that's just to name a few of the student-focused events! This season is also a great time to celebrate and reflect on the good work of our school teams over the past year. I hope you will take time to recognize the great work of our people, including our teachers during **Teacher Appreciation Week** next week!

This week, I'm excited to spotlight the 2026 *National Institute for Excellence in Teaching (NIET) Founder's Award* Winner...Indiana's own **Northview Middle School**!

If you aren't familiar with the NIET Founder's Award, it's a national honor which recognizes *just one school each year across the entire country*. Specifically, schools are recognized for outstanding implementation of NIET's principles to strengthen teaching and accelerate student success.



Photos Courtesy: National Institute for Excellence in Teaching

Northview Middle School is no stranger to recognition. In 2023, at our second annual Educational Excellence Awards Gala, Northview earned the Excellence in Leading and Learning Award, along with \$215,600! They immediately reinvested these funds in teacher professional development, including a one-year pilot with NIET to restructure their Instructional Leadership Team, as well as improving their Professional Learning Communities (PLCs) and implementing best practices for English learners. The impact was measurable: increased English/language arts (ELA) and math scores, significant gains for English learners, and even a drop in discipline incidents.

From 2023 to 2025, Northview more than doubled the number of students achieving proficiency on ILEARN math. And in 2025, they had more students at or above proficiency than below in both ELA and math for the first time since before the pandemic. Based on strong, positive educator feedback and clear academic impact, they recently expanded the NIET partnership district-wide with support from Lilly Endowment Inc.

And their achievements don't stop there. In 2025, **Principal Tom Hakim**, was also named Middle School Principal of the Year by the Indiana Association of School Principals!

This success is a testament to Principal Hakim, his team at Northview, and the entire school community...and their relentless focus on making it better for students! Keep up the great work!

As always, thank you for all that you do for Indiana students, and have a great weekend!

Office of Assessment

REMINDER: 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: Tiered System of Supports Live Series for K-8 Mathematics Slides and FAQ Now Available

Educators and administrators unable to attend the Tiered System of Supports Live Series for K-8 Mathematics webinar can now access the slides for sessions held on [Monday, March 23](#) and [Monday, April 13](#). The [FAQ](#) is also available. Contact IDOE's [Office of Curriculum and Instruction](#) with any questions.

NEW: Artificial Intelligence (AI) Spotlight Sessions

Join administrators, coaches, teachers, and students from school corporations across Indiana to hear them share their strategies, successes, and challenges related to AI. Join us in the Indiana Learning Lab each day at noon ET from Monday, May 11, through Friday, May 15, to hear their stories. Register to attend [here](#). Contact IDOE's [Office of Digital Learning](#) 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 seeks educators and other stakeholders to comprise committees that will review the Indiana Academic Standards and Content Connectors for K-12 Mathematics. Interested individuals should complete and submit [this JoForm](#) by 11:45 p.m. ET today, Friday, May 1, to be considered for this collaborative opportunity. IDOE will review all submissions and select participants based on many criteria (e.g., teaching experience, current role, student populations served) to help maximize representation on each committee. Only selected applicants will be notified. Contact IDOE's [Office of Curriculum and Instruction](#) with any questions.

REMINDER: 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 Indiana's Data Science Summit, held in December 2025, and responds 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 the 2027-2028 school year. 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, 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](#). All 2026-2027 K-12 Robotics Competition Grant Applications are due 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 Preparation

NEW: Public Comment Window for Indiana Educator World Language Standards

A committee of world language educator preparation program representatives and other stakeholders convened to recommend updates to the Indiana Educator Standards for World Languages, including American Sign Language, Classical Languages, and Modern European and East Asian Languages. The draft standards are available for public comment through 5 p.m. ET on Saturday, May 30. Use this [JoForm](#) to access the draft standards and detailed instructions for participating in this process. 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 [Scott Boggan](#) with any questions.

Office of Educator Talent and Literacy Center

NEW: Universal Reading Screening Guidance 2026-2027

The universal reading screening guidance including information on dyslexia programming has been updated for 2026-2027 [here](#). This guidance includes administering universal reading screening, appropriate interventions for students, Level I diagnostic screening process, and family communication. Please contact IDOE's [Literacy Center](#) with any questions.

REMINDER: Monthly Data Interpretation Office Hours Acadience Reading Preferred Universal Screener

Acadience Learning, Inc. continues to host monthly office hours to support school leaders and educators as they interpret the data from the state's preferred screener. The next office hour will begin at 10:30 a.m. ET on Wednesday, May 13. Click [here](#) to join. Learn more information by visiting the Indiana Acadience webpage [here](#). Please contact IDOE's [Literacy Center](#) with any questions.

REMINDER: 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 eight to submit an annual reading plan to IDOE by Tuesday, June 30. IDOE's Literacy Center released the [2026-2027 annual K-8 reading plan guidance](#) to support schools in this process. Contact IDOE's [Literacy Center](#) with additional questions.

Office of School Finance

NEW: Teacher Compensation And Funding Floor Fiscal Year (FY) 2026

Please review this [memo](#) for important reminders regarding fiscal year 2026 teacher compensation and funding floor calculations. Contact IDOE's [Office of School Finance](#) with any questions.

Office of Special Education, English Learning, and Migrant Education

NEW: IDOE Special Programs for Multilingual Learners Office Hours

IDOE's Office of English Learning and Migrant Education is hosting a virtual office hours session on Monday, May 11, at 11 a.m. ET to provide support for IDOE Special Programs, the statewide platform to house Individual Learning Plans (ILPs) and additional documentation for multilingual learners. In this session, updates to EL-related features of the system will be reviewed, along with time for questions from the field. Visit the [Indiana EL Professional Development Opportunities Calendar](#) for the meeting link. Contact IDOE's [Office of English Learning and Migrant Education](#) with any questions.

UPDATE: 2026 Special Education Director Outreach Opportunities

IDOE's Office of Special Education is offering multiple support opportunities for Indiana special education directors and administrators in 2026. Join the May sessions to learn more about exiting and graduation from Brandon Myers, IDOE's Assistant Director of Program Performance and Reporting, and Medicaid updates from Julie Feagans, IDOE's School Medicaid Specialist.

- 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: 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.

REMINDER: Monthly New EL Director Professional Learning Community (PLC) on Tuesday, May 12

New directors of EL programs are invited to join IDOE in an ongoing PLC during the 2025-2026 school year. This is a place to network with other stakeholders, access timely program information, and bring questions. The next session will be held on Tuesday, May 12, at 9:30 a.m. ET. The meeting link and information can be found on the [EL PD Opportunities Calendar](#). Please contact IDOE's [Office of English Learning and Migrant Education](#) with questions.

REMINDER: Important Changes to Medicaid Administrative Claiming (InMAC)

Beginning Wednesday, 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: 2026-2027 School Year RoboKind Grant Opportunity

Through House Resolution 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.

REMINDER: Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) Part B Proportionate Share Office Hours

IDOE's Office of Special Education Part B fiscal team is hosting office hours to assist local education agencies (LEAs) that have proportionate share balances or are planning to complete a Proportionate Share Release. The Fiscal Year IDEA Part B Section 611 and 619 grants will close on Wednesday, September 30. This forum will answer questions and provide support for LEAs to expend funds for students with disabilities who are parentally placed in a non-public or homeschool setting. IDOE's Equitable Services Ombudsman will also share best practices for meeting initial and ongoing consultation requirements. Click the links below to join:

- [Thursday, May 21, from 10 to 11 a.m. ET](#)
- [Wednesday, May 27, from 1 to 2 p.m. ET](#)

Office of Title Grants and Support

NEW: FY 2027 Pre-Application

The FY 2027 Pre-Application is now available through the [Title Grants Pre-Application Collection](#) in the Indiana Learning Lab. All instructions, forms, and submission information may be found within the collection. Please ensure a [Learning Lab](#) account has been registered in order to access the collection. The Pre-Application is due Wednesday, July 1. Please note, reimbursement eligibility begins Wednesday, July 1, or the date at which the Pre-Application is submitted in reviewable format, whichever is later. Please contact TitleI@doe.in.gov with any questions.

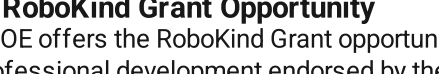
News From Our Partners

NEWS FROM KEEP INDIANA LEARNING (a department of the CIESC): Accountability Model with Dr. Todd Bess

Ensure your leadership team is ready for the shift to Indiana's new K-12 accountability model. Join ICIA and guest expert Dr. Todd Bess on Friday, May 15, for a free spotlight session dedicated to practical guidance and key updates. Dr. Bess will address real questions and trends emerging from the field to help you navigate the transition with confidence. Whether you attend live or access the recording later, you will leave with a clearer understanding of state priorities and the planning steps necessary for your school's success. Learn more and register [here](#) today. Please contact [Keep Indiana Learning](#) with questions.

NEW FROM THE CENTER OF EXCELLENCE IN LEADERSHIP OF LEARNING (CELL): Indiana Early College Summit 2026

[CELL](#) is hosting the Indiana Early College Summit on Tuesday, June 3, in New Palestine. This one-day event brings together educators and higher education partners to share effective practices for helping students earn college credit in high school and succeed beyond graduation. The Summit includes 50+ sessions across multiple tracks—including classroom strategies, work-based learning, student support, Early College principles, and building scalable systems—with a focus on practical, ready-to-use strategies to expand postsecondary opportunities and strengthen student outcomes. The event is designed for educators, school and district leaders, school counselors, higher education partners, and nonprofit organizations supporting college and career readiness. Registration closes on Friday, May 29, and available tickets are limited. Learn more and register [here](#).



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