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# Dr. Jenner's Weekly Update

Weekly Newsletter from the Indiana Department of Education

May 22, 2026

## A Message from Dr. Katie Jenner

While summer does not officially start for a few more weeks, Memorial Day weekend often marks the unofficial start of the season. Each year at this time, approximately 350,000 people flock to Speedway, Indiana, to witness "The Greatest Spectacle in Racing," and across the state, families and friends enjoy barbecues, time on the water, and local parades.

This Memorial Day is particularly special because in just a few more weeks, we will celebrate America's 250th anniversary...an anniversary that is only made possible through the heroic sacrifices of so many men and women in uniform.



As you enjoy the weekend's festivities, take a moment to talk with the young people in your life about the significance of this holiday and the freedoms our veterans fought to protect. Consider how in education we can work together to develop stronger, more prepared citizens and better safeguard our homeland. And, first and foremost, remember the courageous Hoosiers and Americans who gave everything to defend the United States of America.

Thank you for all you do, and enjoy your long weekend!

## Office of Accountability

### NEW: 2026 Cohort Locking Soon

The 2026 cohort will lock on Tuesday, June 30. Please check your cohort reports for accuracy and pay special attention to any students with an Unknown cohort status. The Unknown cohort status is a dropout status and counts against the graduation rate. Many Unknown cohort statuses can be fixed by the school/corporation via data entries. Additional cohort specific details can be found in the [Cohort & Graduation Rate](#) section of the [School Accountability & Accreditation Community](#) on Moodle. The case-sensitive enrollment key for the Moodle community is [AccountabilityCommunity](#). Contact the Indiana Department of Education's (IDOE's) [Office of School Accountability](#) with any questions.

### REMINDER: School and Corporation Profile Amendment Window Now Open

The school and corporation profile amendment submission window for the 2026-2027 school year opened on Wednesday, April 1, and will close on Monday, August 31. In order to ensure IDOE maintains accurate information, all schools and 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 Accountability](#) with any questions.

## Office of Assessment

### NEW: Key Dates for Early Learning Assessment Information

IDOE's Offices of Student Assessment and Kindergarten Readiness are hosting several upcoming professional development opportunities. Join IDOE this summer, in collaboration with First Steps, for an event dedicated to sharing current federal and state requirements related to early intervention and early childhood special education. Annual teacher and data manager training for both ISPROUT and IKRA will occur in the fall. All upcoming professional development opportunities, both in person and virtual, are located [here](#) for easy reference and registration. Contact IDOE's [Office of Student Assessment](#) with questions.

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

### NEW: Artificial Intelligence (AI) Spotlight Sessions Available On Demand

Administrators, coaches, teachers, and students from five school corporations across Indiana presented in the Indiana Learning Lab, sharing their strategies, successes, and challenges related to AI. [The collection of recordings](#) is now available for on demand viewing. Contact IDOE's [Office of Digital Learning](#) with any questions.

### NEW: Advanced Placement (AP) Professional Development Grant Application 2026-2027

The Indiana General Assembly appropriated a portion of the STEM Program Alignment fund in [HEA 1001 \(2025\)](#) to be used by colleges or universities for the purpose of increasing student enrollment and improving student scores in [AP math and science courses](#). This grant supports professional development and educator programming that delivers these key results. Grant submissions from eligible postsecondary institutions are due Friday, June 7. Please see the [grant guidelines](#) for more information and [the grant application form](#) for submissions. Contact IDOE's [Office of Curriculum and Instruction](#) with any questions.

## Office of Educator Talent and Literacy Center

### UPDATE: Summer Institute Registration Extended

Registration for the Science of Reading for English Learners (SORELL) Summer Institute has been extended. This culminating event will bring school teams together for professional learning, coaching, data analysis, and guidance to support long-term implementation and sustainability. The SORELL Summer Institute will take place on Tuesday, June 16, from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. ET, at the Indiana Government Center South. Seats are limited. Registration will be on a first-come, first-served basis. Click [here](#) to save your spot. Contact IDOE's [Literacy Center](#) with any questions.

### REMINDER: Now Accepting Nominations for the 2027 Indiana Teacher of the Year

The Indiana Teacher of the Year Program works to inspire, rejuvenate, and celebrate the teaching profession by recognizing outstanding teachers from across the state. Schools are encouraged to participate in the state's annual selection process which is now open and concludes in fall 2026. Local schools and Teacher(s) of the Year are encouraged to complete [this application](#) by 5 p.m. ET on Friday, July 3, as the first step in the application process. More information regarding the Indiana Teacher of the Year selection process can be found [here](#). Contact [intoy@doe.in.gov](mailto:intoy@doe.in.gov) with any questions.

### REMINDER: IDOE Accepting Nominations for the 2026-2027 RISE Classified Staff Award

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. All nominations must be submitted via [this JotForm](#) by 5 p.m. ET on Friday, June 12. Contact IDOE's [Office of Educator Talent](#) with any questions.

## Office of School Finance

### NEW: June Workshop

Using the same format as last year, the June Workshop videos will be posted in the Public School Finance Community on Moodle (Key: PSCOM) by Friday, June 12. At that time, a question form will also be available for school personnel. On Tuesday, June 23, IDOE's Office of School Finance will hold an office hours session to answer questions received through this process. Please email [schoolfinance@doe.in.gov](mailto:schoolfinance@doe.in.gov) with questions about the workshop.

## Office of Special Education, English Learning, and Migrant Education

### NEW: Annual Excess Cost Funding Application Pause

As part of the annual fiscal year close-out process, excess cost funding applications are temporarily paused until July. Applications for FY 2027 may be submitted beginning Wednesday, July 1, when the new application becomes available. Any applications submitted before that date will not be reviewed.

### NEW: Final Special Education Lead and Listen Session for School Year (SY) 2025-2026

Thank you to those who joined IDOE's Office of Special Education at the various Director Outreach sessions this school year! Join the final Special Education Lead and Listen session for SY 2025-2026 to learn more about exiting and graduation from Brandon Myers, Assistant Director of Program Performance and Reporting, and Medicaid updates from Julie Feagans, School Medicaid Specialist.

The Special Education Director Outreach series will be back next school year with more helpful information. Please direct any questions about director outreach opportunities to [spedassistance@doe.in.gov](mailto:spedassistance@doe.in.gov).

### REMINDER: Early Intervention Transition Roadshow

IDOE's Office of Special Education is partnering with the Bureau of Child Development Services (First Steps) to travel around the state for joint training related to transition from Part C (First Steps) to Part B services. Events are capped at 100 attendees and guests are encouraged to attend the event in their corresponding cluster. Register for the training [here](#) and email [specialeducation@doe.in.gov](mailto:specialeducation@doe.in.gov) with any questions.

### REMINDER: FY 2027 Special Education Grant Assurances Due Wednesday, July 1

The FY 2027 Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) Part B Grant Assurance template and instructions for using the Grant Management System are now available here: [Moodle>Fiscal>Part B Grants for Special Education>FY27 Grant Information>Assurances](#). To reserve the earliest reimbursement effective date for the FY 2027 Part B grant period, schools must submit correctly completed Assurances for the FY 2027 Part B grants in the Grant Management System on or before Wednesday, July 1. Please contact [partbgrants@doe.in.gov](mailto:partbgrants@doe.in.gov) with any questions.

### REMINDER: FY 2027 General Education Provision Act (GEPA) Forms Due Wednesday, July 1

To comply with Section 427 of GEPA, local educational agencies (LEAs) requesting IDEA Part B funds must have an approved GEPA statement of compliance on file. If an LEA needs to update its GEPA Section 427 form, a new form will need to be completed and uploaded to IDOE's grant management system. The GEPA form can be found in [Moodle>Fiscal>Part B Grants for Special Education>FY27 Grant Information>GEPA Section 427](#). All questions must be answered on the GEPA form. Contact [partbgrants@doe.in.gov](mailto:partbgrants@doe.in.gov) with additional questions.

### REMINDER: IDEA Part B Proportionate Share Office Hours

IDOE's Office of Special Education Part B fiscal team is hosting office hours to assist 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 funds 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 link below to join:

- [Wednesday, May 27, 1 to 2 p.m. ET](#)

### REMINDER: English/Language Arts (ELA) Praxis Vouchers Available for English Learner (EL) Teachers

EL-licensed educators can now apply for a voucher to take the English Language Arts: Content Knowledge (5038) Praxis assessment. This voucher covers the full cost of the exam and provides a streamlined pathway for EL teachers to add the ELA 5-12 content area to their existing license without additional coursework. ELA licensure enables EL educators to teach credit-bearing secondary ELA courses, expanding access to high-quality instruction for EL students. Complete [this Jotform](#) to request a voucher and get started. Recipients must take the assessment within six months of receiving the voucher. Contact IDOE's Office of English Learning and Migrant Education with any questions.

### REMINDER: English Learner (EL) Exit Criteria Resources

IDOE's EL team has provided guidance on the process to exit eligible students from EL status through a review of additional evidence alongside WIDA results. The [Exit Criteria for English Learners Guidance](#) has been updated to apply to 2026 WIDA ACCESS and Alternate ACCESS results. Accompanying resources, such as training materials and Decision-Making Tool templates, can be found on the IDOE English Learning and Migrant Education webpage. Per the guidance, students provisionally determined proficient via an additional evidence review must be submitted to IDOE for approval prior to formally exiting. The window to submit these students is currently open through Friday, August 21. Contact IDOE's [Office of English Learning and Migrant Education](#) with 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](#) beginning Monday, March 30. Previously, amendments were submitted via fax to IDOE. Any amendments submitted via fax after this date may be experiencing delays, as the fax inbox is no longer 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.

## Office of Title Grants and Support

### UPDATED: Risk Assessment Office Hours (Second Session)

Risk Assessments for the 2024-2025 SY are now available and published on Moodle for LEAs to review. To view your LEA's Risk Assessment data, you will first need to enroll in the Federal Compliance course. The enrollment key is: apple.

Note: LEAs selected for additional monitoring, desktop or onsite, will be made aware via a formal memo. Additional information related to monitoring will be released soon.

Questions? Join our second session of [Virtual Risk Assessment Office Hours via Microsoft Teams](#), scheduled for Wednesday, May 27, at 1 p.m. ET. Additional questions can be sent to [federalmonitoring@doe.in.gov](mailto:federalmonitoring@doe.in.gov).

### REMINDER: FY 2027 Pre-Application

The FY 2027 Pre-Application is 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 that reimbursement eligibility begins Wednesday, July 1, or the date at which the Pre-Application is submitted in reviewable PDF format, whichever is later. The recording from the Thursday, April 30, quarterly meeting is now also available in the collection. Please contact [Titel@doe.in.gov](mailto:Titel@doe.in.gov) with any questions.

## Indiana Commission for Higher Education

### NEW: 2026-2027 Credentials of Value List Released

Indiana's [new high school diploma requirements](#) include a focus on providing students the opportunity to increase their educational attainment by earning credentials of value in high school. On May 31, 2025, the first Credentials of Value (CoV) list for high schools was released, effective for the 2025-2026 school year. To increase clarity and ease of access, the [2026-2027 High School Credentials of Value List](#) has been reorganized into a single spreadsheet. Information on navigating the new list layout can be found in this [joint memo](#) from IDOE and the Indiana Commission for Higher Education. Questions regarding the new Credentials of Value list can be directed to [COV@che.in.gov](mailto:COV@che.in.gov).

## News From Our Partners

### NEW FROM KEEP INDIANA LEARNING (a department of the CIESC): Accountability Summit

Keep Indiana Learning invites school and district leadership teams to the Account Summit: Mapping the Journey Together on Monday, June 15, at 9 a.m. ET at The Pyramids - Indianapolis. This event is specifically designed for cross-functional district leadership teams, including superintendents, principals, and curriculum directors, to systemically analyze the new accountability model and navigate what's ahead with clarity, purpose, and confidence. Seats are limited for this free, in-person event, so [register here](#) soon! Please contact [Keep Indiana Learning](#) with questions.



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