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Dr. Jenner's Weekly Update

Weekly Newsletter from the Indiana Department of Education

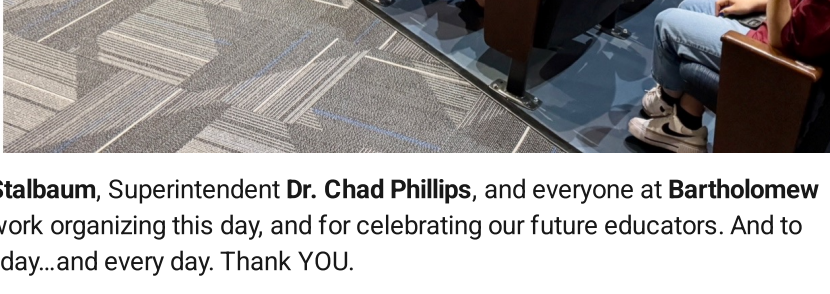
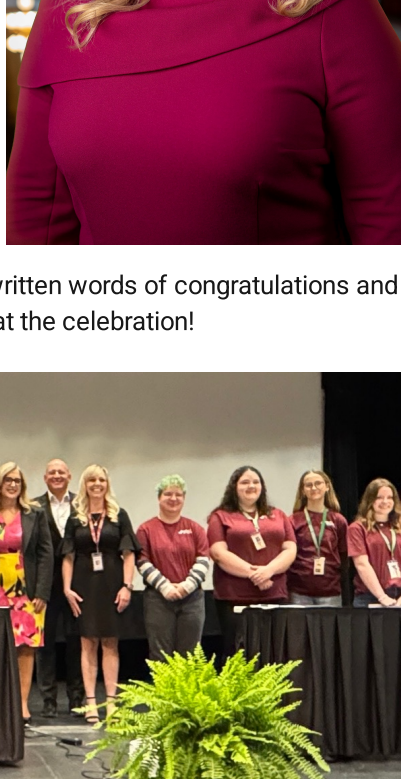
May 9, 2025

A Message from Dr. Katie Jenner

Every year, the first full week of May marks **Teacher Appreciation Week**. Throughout the state there were many celebrations at local schools, including faculty lounges packed with treats and surprises, and while this is just one week of the year, we know teachers are the heart of the classroom and deserve our appreciation every day.

This year, during Teacher Appreciation Week one of the special celebrations I witnessed took place in Columbus, where **Bartholomew County Consolidated Schools** celebrated 31 future educators at their Future Educator Signing Day. Students from the three area high schools, **Columbus East High School**, **Columbus North High School**, and **Columbus Signature Academy (CSA) New Tech**, participated in a sports-inspired signing day, although instead of signing for a collegiate or professional athletic team, these students were celebrated because they committed to joining us as future educators.

The audience was filled with parents and families, as well as the senior students' favorite teachers, who contributed to the program by providing written words of congratulations and encouragement to each student on stage. Check out this [video](#) for a look at the celebration!



Thank you to Assistant Superintendent **Dr. Erin Stalbaum**, Superintendent **Dr. Chad Phillips**, and everyone at **Bartholomew Consolidated School Corporation** for their hard work organizing this day, and for celebrating our future educators. And to every Indiana teacher, I share my appreciation today...and every day. Thank YOU.

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: IREAD-3 Summer Retest Window Opens Monday, May 12

The IREAD-3 Summer Retest for students in grades two and above who did not achieve a passing score in the spring administration opens Monday, May 12. No automatic paper materials orders will be generated for this testing window, and orders may be placed through Monday, June 9. Schools should place initial paper orders for grades two and above for Opportunity 1 prior to the first summer attempt. Contact IDOE's [Office of Student Assessment](#) with any questions.

Office of Communications and External Affairs

REMINDER: Indiana Purple Star School Application Now Available

The Indiana Purple Star School Designation honors schools that have displayed a significant commitment to service members, veterans, and students and families connected to our nation's military. The 2025 application is now open through Monday, September 8. Learn about the requirements and apply [here](#). Contact IDOE's [Office of Communications and External Affairs](#) with any questions.

Office of Educator Talent & Literacy Center

REMINDER: Weekly Office Hours Preferred Universal Screener Acadience Reading

Acadience Learning, Inc. will hold weekly office hours every Wednesday at 10:30 am EST for school leaders and educators to support the implementation of the assessment as the state's preferred screener. Click [here](#) to join each week. More information can also be found on the Indiana Acadience webpage [here](#). Contact IDOE's [Literacy Center](#) with any questions.

REMINDER: Beyond Storytime - Everyday Ways to Build Literacy at Home Webinar

Join author Maya Smart, on Monday, May 19, at 10:30 a.m. ET in the IN Learning Lab for Beyond Story Time: Everyday Ways to Build Literacy at Home. In this webinar Maya will offer simple, practical strategies that families can use to support early literacy through everyday conversations and routines—no special materials or books required. The session will highlight how parents and caregivers can nurture their child's language and reading development in ways that feel doable, affirming, and responsive to family needs. Ideal for families with children from birth to second grade, the session will include interactive prompts, real-life examples, and follow-up resources to support continued engagement at home. See registration details [here](#). Contact IDOE's [Literacy Center](#) with any questions.

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

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 here. Contact IDOE's [Office of Educator Talent](#) with any questions.

REMINDER: Nominations Now Open for the 2026 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 [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 [JotForm](#). Contact IDOE's [Office of Educator Talent](#) with any questions.

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 here. Contact IDOE's [Office of Educator Talent](#) with any questions.

REMINDER: 2026 Teacher of the Year Application Now Available

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 [intoy@doe.in.gov](#).

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 School Finance

NEW: Summer School Costs Estimates

Pursuant to 511 IAC 12-2-1(c), the summer school cost estimates will be posted on or before Tuesday, May 15, in the Public School Finance Community on Moodle. Contact [summersch@doe.in.gov](#) with any questions.

Office of School Support and Transformation

REMINDER: Next Gen School Improvement Grant (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.

Office of Student Pathways and Opportunities

REMINDER: 2024-2025 School Year Graduation Pathways Webinar

The May Graduation Pathways webinar will take place on Thursday, May 22, from 1 to 2 p.m. ET. The webinar will focus on data reporting. Please use this [link](#) to join the webinar. Contact IDOE's [Office of Student Pathways and Opportunities](#) with any questions.

REMINDER: Alternative Education New Program Proposal Deadline for 2025-2026 School Year Submissions

The deadline to submit an Alternative Education New Program Proposal for operation in the 2025-2026 school year is Friday, May 30. The proposal link can be found [here](#). The submission window for Alternative Education New Program Proposals for operation in 2026-2027 school year is Monday, September 1, 2025, through March 31, 2026. Contact IDOE's [Alternative Education](#) team with any questions.

Office of Special Education, English Learning, and Migrant Education

REMINDER: Virtual Learning Learner (EL) Leadership Meeting on Thursday, May 22

IDOE's Office of English Learning and Migrant Education will host the next EL Leadership Meeting with from 10 to 11:30 a.m. ET on Thursday, May 22. This meeting is intended for Indiana K-12 EL leaders and administrators and will consist of updates and interaction on timely EL topics. Registration is not required. 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.

REMINDER: School-Based Medicaid Administrative Claiming Office Hours

Fairbanks is Indiana's new vendor providing services for the School-Based Medicaid Administrative Claiming. IDOE's Office of Special Education is co-hosting office hours with Fairbanks, the new Indiana Medicaid Administrative claiming vendor. Please see the [memo](#) and plan to join one of the office hours scheduled:

- [Thursday, May 15, at 10 a.m. ET](#)
- [Thursday, May 22, at noon ET](#)

Contact IDOE's [School Medicaid Specialist](#) with any questions.

Office of Teaching and Learning, Digital Learning, and Kindergarten Readiness

REMINDER: High-Quality Curricular Materials Advisory Lists Now Available - K-12 STEM & Early Learning

IDOE published approved high-quality curricular materials for K-12 STEM and early learning aligned to the 2023 Indiana Academic Standards and Early Learning Standards. Information regarding the process of review, requirements, and more can be found in this [memo](#) and in this [FAQ resource](#). Cost sheets for approved vendor curriculum are available on IDOE's [High-Quality Curricular Materials Advisory Lists webpage](#). Contact IDOE's [Office of Teaching and Learning](#) with questions regarding the K-12 STEM advisory list and [Office of Kindergarten Readiness](#) for questions regarding the early learning advisory list.

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](#). More information on both competitive grants can be found on the respective memos. The recording for the grant information session can be found [here](#). Contact the [Office of Digital Learning](#) with any questions.

REMINDER: Corporation and Building Leadership - Artificial Intelligence (AI) Professional Development (PD)

Corporation and building leadership are invited to join Dr. Sabba Quidwai for sessions about AI in education in the Indiana Learning Lab. The second session, From Tools to Teammates: Redesigning Education with AI and Human Collaboration, takes place on Tuesday, May 13, at 10 a.m. ET. Register to attend [here](#). The first session is [now available on demand](#). Contact IDOE's [Office of Digital Learning](#) with any questions.

REMINDER: Artificial Intelligence (AI) in the Classroom - Spotlight Sessions

Join educators across the state for presentations in the Indiana Learning Lab for a series of sessions spotlighting practical ways they are using AI in the classroom. Fifteen presentations lasting 10 to 15 minutes each will take place over the course of three afternoons, starting at noon E.T. from Wednesday, May 14, through Friday, May 16. Register to attend [here](#). Contact IDOE's [Office of Digital Learning](#) with any questions.

REMINDER: 2025-2026 K-12 Robotics Competition Grant Application

The [2025-2026 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. Interested applicants are encouraged to apply [here](#). Please note that all 2025-2026 K-12 Robotics Competition Grant Applications are due by 11:45 p.m. on Friday, May 16. A virtual information session was held on Tuesday, April 15, to explain the grant and application process. Please view these [slides](#) from that meeting for more information. Contact [tl.grants@doe.in.gov](#) with any questions.

Office of Title Grants and Support

NEW: May Coffee Chat

Grab your favorite cup of coffee and join the Title Grants and Support team for monthly Coffee Chats! Coffee Chats are the last Thursday of the month at 10 a.m. ET. Please join via [Microsoft Teams](#) on Thursday, May 29, and forward this link to necessary stakeholders within your district. Please contact [ttitle@doe.in.gov](#) with any questions.

REMINDER: FFY2025/FY2025 Pre-application Now Available

The FFY2025/FY2026 Pre-application is now available through the [Title Grants Pre-app Moodle](#). All instructions, forms, and submission information may be found within the Moodle course. The Pre-application is due July 1, 2025 (please note, reimbursement eligibility begins July 1, 2025 or the date at which the Pre-application is submitted in reviewable format, whichever is later). Please contact [ttitle@doe.in.gov](#) with any questions.

Indiana Commission for Higher Education

REMINDER: Graduation Details Collection

The Commission (CHE) hosted a webinar for high school staff on April 24 to kick off EOY reporting, commonly known as Graduation Details collection. CHE's Outreach Coordinators will work with school staff to collect graduation details for graduating 21st Century Scholars, as well as students earning honors diploma diplomas, in addition to collecting FAFSA opt-out statuses in accordance with SEA 167-2023. Financial aid award determination for 21st Century Scholars is dependent on the collection of final, anticipated diploma type and final GPA in adherence to the Scholar Pledge. Students will run into issues at their college or university if these details are not reported and if the award is not created in ScholarTrack.

[Here](#) is a recording of the webinar housed on the @LearnMoreIN YouTube page. A step-by-step reporting guide can be found at [learnmoreindiana.org/grad-details](#) to aid school staff in this process. School staff should [connect with their Outreach Coordinator](#) for questions and support. All Graduation Details reporting must be submitted via ScholarTrack no later than June 30, 2025.

REMINDER: 2026 Indiana Pre-Admissions Opt-In

The Commission is beginning its next round of [Indiana Pre-Admissions: Your Path to College](#). Indiana Pre-Admissions is a statewide pre-admissions initiative from CHE, in partnership with Indiana's higher education institutions. The initiative works by "pre-admitting" high school seniors to colleges across Indiana based on their junior year GPA and/or SAT score. Last year, 39 colleges across the state partnered with CHE for Indiana Pre-Admissions.

Opting into Indiana Pre-Admissions also benefits your incoming freshmen, sophomores, and juniors through our new Enrollment Ready campaign. Each fall, these students will receive a grade-level-specific letter full of tips and reminders to get them prepared for their paths after high school graduation.

If you are a school administrator and would like your high school to participate in this initiative for the 2026 cohort, please email [preadmissions@che.in.gov](#) prior to the Friday, June 20, opt-in deadline.

News From Our Partners

NEW FROM THE INDIANA ASSOCIATION OF PUBLIC SCHOOL SUPERINTENDENTS (IAPSS): Seeking New Executive Director to Begin January 2026

IAPSS is seeking a new Executive Director to officially assume leadership of the association in January 2026, following Dr. Taylor's retirement. Find the position posting and detailed information [here](#). Applications are being accepted through May 30. Contact [Dr. Dan Hille](#), IAPSS Vice President, with questions.

NEW FROM THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF STATE BOARDS OF EDUCATION (NASBE): High School Transformation Survey

NASBE is conducting a survey of stakeholders across six states to help identify how state policies are impacting their ability to transform high schools. Schools are invited to take this [survey](#) to help the NASBE Indiana team. The survey is 13 questions long and should take most people 10 to 15 minutes to complete. You do not have to be an education expert to take the survey; it is intended to be accessible to anyone with an interest in or experience with high school transformation. The survey will be open through Friday, May 23. Educator perspectives matters to better understand the biggest challenges faced in transforming high schools, barriers to catalyzing or scaling change, and key successes so that together we can build a system of high schools that give each student the rich, rigorous high school experiences they deserve.

REMINDER FROM INDY SPORTS CHAMP AND THE FINAL FOUR COMMITTEE: Read to the Final Four

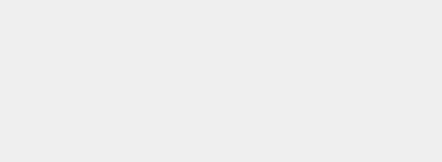
[Read to the Final Four](#) is a statewide literacy challenge celebrating the 2026 NCAA Men's Final Four in Indianapolis! As we gear up for this exciting [statewide initiative](#), we want to hear from you: our valued partners in education, libraries, youth services, and community leadership. Please take a moment to complete our brief [Community Literacy Survey](#). Your insights will help us design programs that best support schools, families, and community organizations now and in the future. Please completed by Sunday, June 1. Thank you for championing Indiana's young readers! Whether you're a librarian, educator, district leader, or community partner, we're grateful to have you on this journey. If you have questions or want to get involved further, please reach out to [community@indianasportscorp.org](#).

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

The Lilly Endowment is accepting applications for their [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. Two information sessions will be held in August:

- Thursday, August 7
- Tuesday, August 19

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



Weekly Updates

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