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# Dr. Jenner's Weekly Update

Weekly Newsletter from the Indiana Department of Education

June 12, 2026

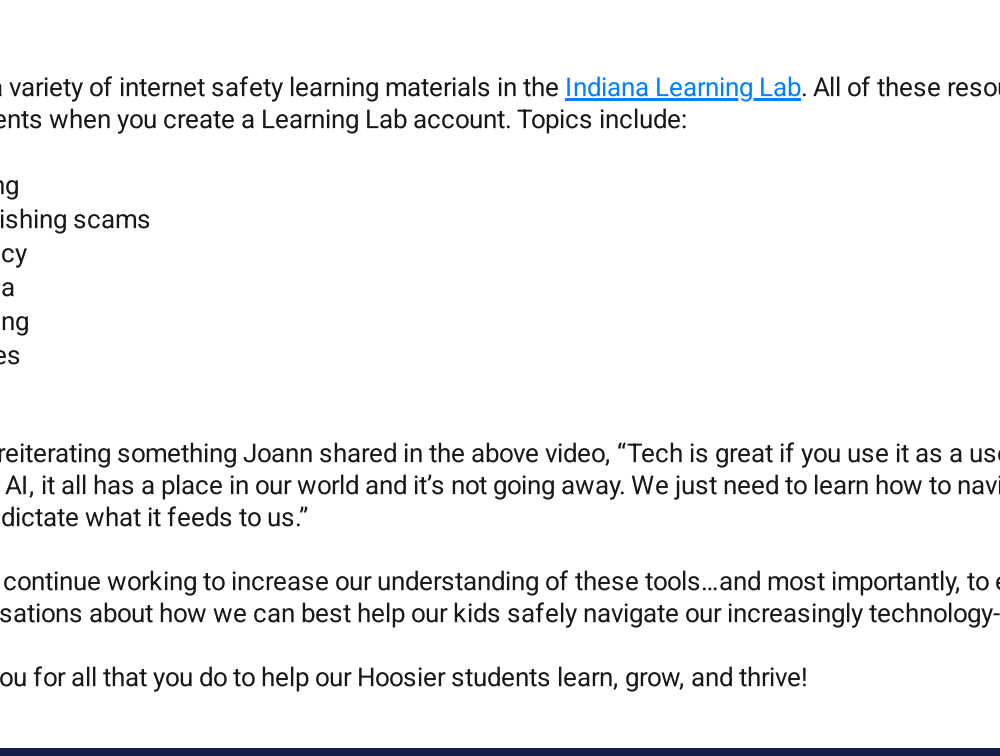
## A Message from Dr. Katie Jenner

As part of national Internet Safety Month, we shared a variety of [FREE resources](#) last week to help schools enhance their cybersecurity posture. Today I'd like to focus on another key aspect of internet safety: helping students build strong digital literacy skills.

This is one of the tougher weekly newsletters I've written, but better protecting our students online requires us to have very honest conversations about some of the impacts we are seeing with social media and the addictive algorithms they use.

I first met Joann Bogard a couple years ago as she was advocating for increased internet safety education in Indiana and beyond. For those who do not know Joann's story, her 15 year old son, Mason, tragically lost his life in 2019 after attempting a viral internet challenge he saw on social media. Joann courageously uses Mason's story to raise awareness amongst other parents, educators, and community members, and ultimately, keep our students safe. In fact, Joann joined us earlier this year to push for a [key piece of legislation](#) aimed at better protecting Indiana's children from the negative impacts of social media—specifically requiring parental consent for children to be on social media, as well as prohibiting addictive, harmful design features.

You can learn more about Joann, Mason, and her ongoing advocacy in the video below.



You can also find a variety of internet safety learning materials in the [Indiana Learning Lab](#). All of these resources are free to educators and parents when you create a Learning Lab account. Topics include:

- Cyberbullying
- Avoiding phishing scams
- Online privacy
- Social media
- Livestreaming
- Smartphones
- And more

I'd like to close by reiterating something Joann shared in the above video, "Tech is great if you use it as a useful tool. Whether it's social media or AI, it all has a place in our world and it's not going away. We just need to learn how to navigate it and use it as a tool and not let it dictate what it feeds to us."

Together, we must continue working to increase our understanding of these tools...and most importantly, to empower meaningful conversations about how we can best help our kids safely navigate our increasingly technology-driven world.

As always, thank you for all that you do to help our Hoosier students learn, grow, and thrive!

## Legislative Guidance

### NEW: 2026 Legislative Guidance

Following the close of each legislative session, the Indiana Department of Education (IDOE) immediately begins working to implement newly-enacted legislation impacting K-12 education, which includes compiling [guidance for schools and educators](#). This guidance is a product of robust cross-agency collaboration and partnership with countless stakeholders. This is an iterative document that will continue to be updated and improved in collaboration with educators.

## Office of Accountability

### REMINDER: 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 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: Updated Computer Science Item Specifications

IDOE has updated and expanded the ILEARN Computer Science Item Specifications to incorporate performance level descriptors, provide example items for each performance level, and clarify content addressing artificial intelligence (AI) given recent advances. View the updates by clicking on any computer science academic standard linked in the [Indiana Science Assessment Frameworks](#). Contact IDOE's [Office of Curriculum & Instruction](#) with any questions.

### REMINDER: WIDA ACCESS Final Results Release

The WIDA ACCESS 2026 final results release is this Wednesday, June 10, in [WIDA AMS](#) Reporting Services. Following post-reporting data validation, updated data files and electronic reports will be available to districts, schools, and affected students. This reporting is final. No additional data corrections can be requested or made. If you have questions regarding results, contact IDOE's [Office of Student Assessment](#) or [Office of English Learning and Migrant Education](#).

### REMINDER: Submit Naturalization Examination Data by Tuesday, June 30

Pursuant to Indiana Code (IC) 20-30-5-7(d), students must take the naturalization examination from the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) during the student's high school U.S. Government course. Corporations must report naturalization examination data to IDOE annually by June 30 for the previous school year. Corporations should use this [JotForm](#) to submit naturalization exam data by Tuesday, June 30. Find more information on this requirement in the [2025-2026 Naturalization Exam memo](#). Contact IDOE's [Office of Student Assessment](#) with any questions.

### REMINDER: 2026-2027 Formative (Interim) Assessment Grant Guidance and Application

Eligible corporations, charter schools, and non-public schools may apply [here](#) for the Formative (Interim) Assessment Grant for the 2026-2027 school year. Public school corporations must complete this application at the district level. Charter schools and accredited non-public schools (including Choice schools and schools that are part of a diocese) must complete this application at the school level. The [2026-2027 Formative \(Interim\) Assessment Grant Guidance](#) should be reviewed prior to submitting an application. All applications are due today, Friday, June 12, by 11:59 p.m. ET. Contact IDOE's [Office of Student Assessment](#) with any questions.

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

### NEW: 2026 Digital Learning Grant Award Recipients

IDOE is pleased to announce the 70 recipients of the 2026 Digital Learning Grant in [this memo](#). This competitive grant opportunity continues to support school corporations as they implement projects aligned with IDOE's strategic priorities: improving student outcomes and academic achievement; strengthening enrollment, employment, and enlistment pathways; leveraging data and innovation for student success; and enhancing school choice and parental involvement. Contact IDOE's [Digital Learning Team](#) with any questions.

### NEW: Internet Safety Month Speaker Series

National Internet Safety Month is observed every June to raise awareness and promote secure digital practices. The first session in the Internet Safety Month Speaker Series, "Cyberbullying and Digital Media Use: What Educators Need to Know" is happening today, Friday, June 10, at noon ET. Registration is [open](#). Live sessions from expert speakers and curated resources in the Indiana Learning Lab align directly with [Indiana Code \(IC\) 20-30-6.1-4](#) to provide educators, families, and students internet safety education. Contact IDOE's [Digital Learning Team](#) with any questions.

### REMINDER: Tiered System of Supports Live Series Session #3 - The Value of Strong Tier I Math Instruction in K-8, Slides, Recording, and Parking Lot Now Available

Educators and administrators unable to attend the Tiered System of Supports Live Series Session #3: The Value of Strong Tier I Math Instruction in K-8 Webinar can now access the [recording](#), [slides](#), and [parking lot questions and answers](#) for this session held on Tuesday, May 26. The [FAQ](#) is also available. Contact IDOE's [Office of Curriculum and Instruction](#) with any questions.

## Office of Educator Preparation

### REMINDER: Committee Stakeholders Needed for Educator Preparation Program (EPP) Math Standards Revision Process

IDOE is launching a periodic review and revision of the Indiana Content Standards for Educators in Middle School Mathematics (5-9) and Mathematics (5-12) to ensure EPPs reflect current expectations for future teachers. IDOE's Office of Higher Education and Educator Preparation Programs is recruiting educators and other stakeholders to serve on a review committee; interested individuals should complete and submit [this form](#) by Friday, June 19. Contact [Renee Baratta](#) with questions.

## Office of Educator Talent and Literacy Center

### REMINDER: 2026-2027 Annual K-8 School Reading Plan

[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](#). Contact IDOE's [Literacy Center](#) with additional questions.

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

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 today, Friday, June 12. Contact IDOE's [Office of Educator Talent](#) 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 [tincy@doe.in.gov](#) with any questions.

## Office of Educational Options and Quality

### NEW: Annual Conference for Choice Schools

The Annual Conference for Choice Schools will be held in Indianapolis on Wednesday, July 15, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. ET. The conference will include customized presentations from IDOE for non-public and participating Choice schools in preparation of the upcoming school year. This year's content includes information from IDOE's Assessment, Accountability, Special Education, Data Reporting, Ombudsman, and Attendance teams.

The conference will be located in the auditorium in the Indiana Government Center South. Sign-in begins at 8 a.m. ET and presentations will begin at 9 a.m. ET. If you have not yet registered, you can complete the [form](#) [here](#).

### REMINDER: Choice Onboarding

Onboarding is a three hour training designed as an in-depth introduction to the Choice Scholarship Program. Some topics covered include the payment process for the 2026-2027 school year, the student/school application process, special education, and more!

While this training is required for new Choice schools, it is optional for any new personnel at existing Choice schools or to any choice administrator who would like detailed information about the Choice Program. All who are interested in this training opportunity must register [here](#).

- Location: virtual session
- Dates: Wednesday, June 24

## Office of School Finance

### NEW: Review Tuition Support

Please review [this memo](#) regarding the Monday, June 15, tuition support payment and upcoming scheduled maintenance of the StateAid system. Please email [schoolfinance@doe.in.gov](#) with any questions.

### NEW: Fiscal Year (FY) 2027 Indirect Cost Rates

The FY 2027 Indirect Cost Rates are available [here](#) and in the Indirect Costs folder of [Moodle](#). School corporations that received certified rates will receive individual emails with the calculation information. Please contact [icr@doe.in.gov](#) with any questions.

### NEW: School Technology Advancement Account (STAA) Applications

School corporations may file an application for an STAA through Friday, July 17. The STAA application can be completed [online](#) and must be completed in one session. A sample application and certification page can be found in [Moodle](#). Contact [commonschoolfund@doe.in.gov](#) with any questions.

### REMINDER: June Workshop

The same format as last year, the June Workshop videos will be posted in the Public School Finance Community on Moodle (Key: PSCOM). 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](#) with questions about the workshop.

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

### NEW: Summer Spotlight Session - Open Q&A for English Learners (ELs)

IDOE's English Learning team will be hosting a virtual session on Monday, June 22, at 10 a.m. ET to serve as an open Q&A opportunity for educators and leaders to ask general EL-related questions for the upcoming school year. Time will be reserved for live questions and answers 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.

### NEW: Save the Dates - 2026-2027 Annual EL Directors' Meetings

IDOE's English Learning team will be hosting their Annual EL Directors' Meetings virtually for the 2026-2027 school year. The first day will feature content for new EL directors and will take place on Wednesday, August 12. The second day is geared toward all EL directors, both new and returning, and will take place on Wednesday, August 19. Both days will have morning and afternoon sessions. More details will be forthcoming, and the meeting times and links can be found on the [Indiana EL Professional Development Opportunities Calendar](#). Contact IDOE's [Office of English Learning and Migrant Education](#) with any questions.

### NEW: Good Cause Exemption (GCE) documentation Template for ELs

A fillable [Good Cause Exemption \(GCE\) documentation template](#) for ELs is available to support the transition from the Indiana Individual Learning Plan (ILP) to IDOE Special Programs following the summer retest. While use of this form is optional, it is available to streamline documentation during this transition. To use the form:

- Download and open it in a PDF editor.
- Complete a separate form for each student for whom a GCE meeting is held.
- Maintain documentation and upload the completed forms to IDOE Special Programs once the system is live.

Contact IDOE's [Office of English Learning and Migrant Education](#) with any questions.

### NEW: School Year (SY) 2026-2027 Special Education Director Outreach, Save the Date

IDOE's Office of Special Education is excited to share the [2026-2027 Special Education Director Outreach schedule](#); including Directors Symposium, Lead and Listen, and Director Foundations sessions. These monthly opportunities will provide directors with timely policy updates, implementation support, and the chance to hear from colleagues about how special education requirements are being implemented across local school communities. Please save the listed dates and watch for session links and reminders in upcoming communications. Questions may be sent to [spedassistance@doe.in.gov](#).

### NEW: Fiscal Year (FY) 2025 Part B Grant Proportionate Share Release Request Forms Will Be Available Tuesday, July 1

The FY 2025 Part B 611 and 619 grant proportionate share release forms will be available on Wednesday, July 1, in IDOE's [Office of Special Education Moodle Community](#). Completed requests, with supporting documentation, must be submitted to IDOE's [Office of Special Education Part B Grants team](#) by Friday, August 28. Following the acceptance of the release form, a Part B grant budget modification request must be completed by Tuesday, September 15, to transfer funds across budget scopes. Download the release request form and instructions from IDOE's [Office of Special Education Moodle Community](#). Contact IDOE's [Office of Special Education](#) with questions.

### REMINDER: New Preschool Coordinator Webinar

IDOE is pleased to invite new local education agency (LEA) preschool coordinators, and other staff who fulfill preschool coordinator duties, to a webinar covering important topics in early childhood and early childhood special education. This event will take place on Thursday, August 13, from 9 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. ET. Interested attendees can register for the event [here](#). Email [spededucation@doe.in.gov](#) with any questions.

### REMINDER: 2025-2026 Behavior Grant Reimbursement Requests

The 2025-2026 Behavior Grant will close on Tuesday, June 30. Expense reimbursements through Sunday, May 31, should be submitted for reimbursement no later than Monday, June 15, to [psebehaviorgrant@doe.in.gov](#). Please include "FY25-26 Behavior Grant Reimbursement" in the subject line.

### REMINDER: Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) Part B Reimbursements

IDOE is currently compiling data for the Annual Comprehensive Financial Report (ACFR), which includes all IDEA Part B expenses. Schools must submit individual requests for expenses up to and through Tuesday, June 30, and expenses as of Wednesday, July 1. Separate reimbursement requests for June and July should be submitted to [spedpartb@doe.in.gov](#) to avoid potential delay with your payment. Reimbursements are due on the first or 15th of the month. Contact IDOE's [Office of Special Education Part B Grants team](#) with any questions.

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

The FY 2027 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](#) with any questions.

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

To comply with Section 427 of GEPA, 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](#) with additional questions.

## Office of Title Grants and Support

### NEW: June Coffee Chat

Please join IDOE's Title Grants and Support team for our June Coffee Chat at 10 a.m. ET on Thursday, June 25, where information will be shared regarding the FY 2027 Title I budget application. The session will be recorded and shared in the Indiana Learning Lab. Please ensure attendees register [here](#) as there will not be a regular meeting link. Contact [TitleI@doe.in.gov](#) with any questions.

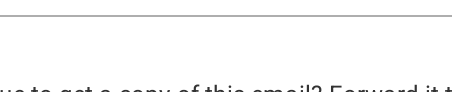
### REMINDER: Fiscal Year (FY) 2027 Pre-Application

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 [TitleI@doe.in.gov](#) with any questions.

## Indiana Commission for Higher Education

### NEW: Dual Credit/Enrollment and Advanced Placement (AP) Study

During the 2025 legislative session, the Indiana General Assembly tasked the Secretary of Education with reviewing current dual credit/enrollment initiatives and the AP program to make recommendations for expanding access to all Hoosier students and ensuring state funding is utilized most effectively and in alignment to the new Indiana high school diploma. School district and high school administrators, counselors, and teachers are invited to provide input through this [Jotform](#) by Wednesday, July 1. Please contact [Doug Harten](#) with additional questions.



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## Weekly Updates

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