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## Special Education Newsletter from the Indiana Department of Education



Indiana Department of Education sent this bulletin at 09/24/2024 08:00 AM EDT



Indiana Department of Education

Dr. Katie Jenner, Secretary of Education

# Special Education Newsletter

This monthly newsletter from the Indiana Department of Education (IDOE) Office of Special Education (OSE) includes resources, guidance, and support for special education directors, educators, and administrators who provide essential services that Indiana's students with disabilities need to learn and thrive.

## Monitoring

### Public Comment: I AM Waiver Extension Request

IDOE is seeking public comment on its request for a waiver extension on the number of students tested using an alternate assessment as part of the statewide assessment. For each subject for which assessments are administered, the total number of students assessed using an alternate assessment may not exceed 1% of the total number of students in the state assessed in that subject. If the state anticipates exceeding the 1% cap, a waiver extension request must be submitted to the federal government. Please see the [2023-2024 Alternate Assessment Waiver Extension Request](#) and this [additional information](#) regarding the federal requirement. Please share your public comment by utilizing [this form](#). These comments will be accepted through Tuesday, October 1. Contact [OSData@doe.in.gov](mailto:OSData@doe.in.gov) with any questions.

### I AM Test Blueprint Educator Survey

IDOE will redesign the I AM assessments to measure the new 2024 Content Connectors and to provide more granular and appropriate data to support teaching and learning. The new I AM for Mathematics and English/language arts (ELA) will be a through-year assessment composed of three short Checkpoints that measure student achievement over the year.

IDOE requests that one designee from every corporation/school (public, charter, accredited non-public) that serves students with significant cognitive disabilities complete both the [I AM Test Design Survey: Mathematics](#) and the [I AM Test Design Survey: ELA](#). The survey may be completed collaboratively, but only one response should be submitted per corporation. Responses from the survey will be used to directly inform decisions about statewide assessments and ensure assessments best reflect current classroom practice. The surveys are available through Friday, October 4. Contact [Mary Krivulka](#) with questions.

### 2024-2025 Parent Survey Materials Now Available

Each school year, IDOE conducts the parent survey to determine whether parents and families feel included in the special education process. Students (ages 18 and older) and families are encouraged to participate in the survey at least once a year. The survey can be taken [online](#) or completed using a [paper version](#) that should be mailed to IDOE (instructions can be found within Google Drive). The survey is available in three languages: English, Spanish, and Burmese. Contact IDOE's [Office of Special Education monitoring team](#) with questions.

### Data Exchange (DEX) Office Hours for 2024-2025

Weekly DEX office hours sessions will be available weekly on Tuesdays. Links to submit questions, responses, and to join the office hours sessions can be found in [Knowledge Hub > Communications Hub](#)

> [Upcoming Events](#).

- **Tuesday, September 24**, 10:30 a.m. to noon ET, Topic: Alternative Education
- **Tuesday, October 1**, 1 to 2:30 p.m. ET
- **Tuesday, October 8**, 10:30 a.m. to noon ET
- **Tuesday, October 15**, 1 to 2:30 p.m. ET, Topic: Homeless, McKinney Vento
- **Tuesday, October 22**, 10:30 a.m. to noon. ET, Topic: High Ability
- **Tuesday, October 29**, 1 to 2:30 p.m. ET, Topic: Special Education

## Fiscal

### FY2025 IDEA, Part B Allocations

The allocations for FY 2025 IDEA, Part B have been posted to Moodle in the Allocations file of the FY 2025 Grant Information folder.

There are three columns of allocations on the spreadsheet: 611, 619, and CCEIS.

For LEAs that have been mandated to use Part B funding for CCEIS, the required 15% has been removed from the calculated 611 allocation. The amount listed in the 611 column is the funding remaining to be budgeted for special education.

For LEAs that have not been mandated to use CCEIS funds, there will be no amount listed in the third column.

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### FY2025 IDEA, Part B Applications

The FY 2025 Part B Applications and Instructions have been posted on Moodle in the FY 2025 Grant Information folder.

Applications for 611 and 619 are due to the [grant management system](#) on/before the following dates:

- **619**: Friday, October 11
- **611**: Friday, October 18
- **Mandatory CCEIS**: Friday, October 25

A checklist has been inserted into each application to assist with completion to assist in avoiding some common mistakes. New charter schools for 2024-2025 will be eligible for Part B funding in January 2025 and will be contacted by OSE with instructions at that time.

All questions and concerns should be directed to your LEA's assigned fiscal specialist. The volume of email and phone calls typically increases during this time of year, and this allows the fiscal team to give the most effective customer service possible.

A list of the LEA fiscal specialist assignments has been placed in the Office of Special Education Moodle Community > Fiscal > [Part B Grants for Special Education](#) > LEA Assigned Specialists. Please make sure to review the list, as many assignments have changed since last year.

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### Office Hours for FY25 IDEA Part B 611 and 619 Applications

The Office of Special Education's Part B fiscal team will be hosting office hours to assist LEAs with completing the FY 2025 611 and 619 Part B grant applications. Each application includes a checklist to assist in accurate completion. Join the 60-minute sessions to get answers to Part B questions or help with the completion and submission process.

The following dates and times are scheduled for Part B Office Hours (click to join):

- [Wednesday, September 25, from 11 a.m. to noon ET](#)
- [Friday, October 4, from 1 to 2 p.m. ET](#)

Contact IDOE's [Office of Special Education](#) with any questions.

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### IMPORTANT: Obligate ALL FY2023 IDEA Part B Grant Funds by Monday, September 30

All FY 2023 Part B funds must be obligated by Monday, September 30. All Part B grant forms and related guidance are available under Part B Grants for Special Education in the Office of Special Education Moodle Community's Fiscal section. Please contact the [Office of Special Education's Part B Grants](#) with any questions.

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### Upcoming: Behavior Grant

OSE is offering a grant focused on behavior support for students with disabilities. Grant funds may be awarded to school corporations, charter schools, and state schools to ensure safe learning environments that support academic achievement for students with IEPs. The grant application will open on Monday,

October 14, and close on Tuesday, December 31. Monthly office hours will be offered to provide support in the application process. Please refer to upcoming announcements in Moodle and weekly newsletters for more information regarding applications and office hours. Contact [osebehaviorgrant@doe.in.gov](mailto:osebehaviorgrant@doe.in.gov) with any questions.

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### **RoboKind Grant Recipients Announced**

Recipients for the [2024-2025 RoboKind Grant](#) have been announced. This grant is designed to provide funds to purchase technology and professional development to improve the social and behavioral skills of students with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD). Contact IDOE's [Office of Special Education](#) with questions.

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### **Medicaid Claiming for Mandated School-based Medical Services**

The Code of Federal Regulations 42 CFR 455.440 provides that a state Medicaid agency must require all claims for payment for items and services that were ordered or referred to contain the National Provider Identifier (NPI) of the physician or other professional who ordered or referred such items or services. For Indiana Medicaid purposes, other than transportation services, Indiana Medicaid will be requiring an ordering or referring provider for all Medicaid claiming activities. School corporations may use any Indiana Medicaid enrolled practitioner who can order an item or a service within their scope of practice.

For Medicaid claiming purposes, if a school psychologist is being used to satisfy this requirement, that individual must be enrolled with Indiana Medicaid. Effective immediately, a licensed school psychologist may enroll with Indiana Medicaid under the Ordering, Prescribing, Referring (OPR) provider classification. Please see [BT2024141](#) for full details. Indiana Medicaid provider relations has also prepared a [webinar](#) to explain this process.

Starting Friday, November 1, any medical claims without an OPR provider will be denied for the explanation of benefit Code 1132. That new explanation of the benefit code will specify that Specialty 120 or 212 is missing or has an invalid referring NPI. Please note that these requirements are specific to school corporations that are submitting Medicaid claims for mandated school-based services.

## **Technical Assistance and Professional Development**

### **New Special Education Teacher Office Hours**

IDOE's Office of Special Education, Technical Assistance (TA) Team will hold office hours for new special education teachers from 4 to 5 p.m. ET on Thursdays once a month. The next meeting will be on Thursday, October 10. These meetings will support teachers new to special education in navigating a variety of pertinent topics, including how to create a compliant IEP. The first half of the hour will be a formal presentation on a relevant topic and the second half will be an open Q&A with an opportunity for teachers of record (TORs) to ask questions. Registration is not required, find the link to join [here](#). Contact IDOE's [Office of Special Education](#) with any questions.

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### **Special Education Directors Symposium**

The Directors Symposium supports special education directors and administrators in learning about special education policies and resources available to Indiana LEAs, providing timely and relevant information that guides them toward increased confidence in their roles and increased compliance in their corporation's reporting. Please complete the [interest form](#) to indicate availability and to receive updates regarding the symposium, which will meet virtually each month. Join the first part of the [Directors Symposium session on Friday, October 4, from 1 to 2 p.m. ET](#), focused on learning more about completing the FY 2025 611 and 619 Part B grant applications. The first 60-minute session will provide answers to Part B questions or help with the completion and submission process. There will be a second session of the [Directors Symposium on Thursday, October 10, from 9 to 10:30 a.m. ET](#). The first 45 minutes will be an introduction and a session on the parent survey; the second 45 minutes will be an overview on certifying and finalizing graduation data. Contact IDOE's [Office of Special Education](#) with any questions.

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### **October Indiana IEP (IIEP) Virtual Office Hours**

Join IIEP virtual office hours sessions hosted by Public Consulting Group (PCG) on the third Wednesday of each month from 11 a.m. to noon ET via Microsoft Teams. Sessions will also be recorded and available in IIEP under the *Training* tab. [Register for October's session](#) to learn more about recent system updates and upcoming changes, followed by a question and answer session. Contact [PCG](#) with questions regarding these office hours.

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### **Indicator 13 Technical Assistance Open Office Hours**

OSE will provide open office hours to assist special education directors and teachers around the state in improving their transition IEPs. Extended office hours will take place from 1 to 4 p.m. ET on Tuesday, September 24, and Thursday, September 26. The meetings can be accessed here: [Transition IEP Open Office Hours](#). Contact IDOE's [Office of Special Education](#) with any questions regarding office hours.

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## Elevating Education 2024: “Improving Outcomes for All” Statewide Conference

In collaboration with IDOE, the IEP TA Center invites you to join our statewide conference, Elevating Education: Improving Outcomes for All. The goal of this conference is for participants to gain knowledge, build capacity, and network with colleagues in order to deliver the most effective educational programming for all students. The conference, intended for general educators, special educators, and administrators, will take place at the Hyatt Regency Indianapolis and the Indiana Convention Center on Tuesday, December 3, and Wednesday, December 4. For more information and registration information, visit the [conference website](#). Contact [Marcee Wilburn](#) from the IEP TA Center with additional questions.

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## Upcoming No-Cost Trainings from The IEP TA Center

The IEP TA Center has a variety of upcoming, no-cost [workshops](#) for Indiana educators in Indianapolis. Review upcoming opportunities on the [training catalog](#). Contact [Marcee Wilburn](#) from the IEP TA Center with any questions.

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## Taking a Deeper Dive - Unpacking the 2023 Mathematics Frameworks

The new [Taking a Deeper Dive: Unpacking the 2023 Mathematics Frameworks session](#) is now available on-demand in the Indiana Learning Lab. This session discusses how the 2023 Mathematics Frameworks can be used to go beyond the wording of the standard to provide content and pedagogical knowledge, explore assessment insights, and examine ways to provide universal support for all students. Contact IDOE's [Office of Teaching and Learning](#) with any questions.

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## Summer of Learning Live 2024 Collection Now Available

The Summer of Learning conferences offer educators the opportunity to connect with innovative, technology-enhanced pedagogy related to Universal Design for Learning (UDL) and accessibility, science of reading, integrated STEM standards, academic recovery, and designing virtual and blended learning experiences. Whether or not you were able to attend any of the 11 regional conferences, you'll want to check out the [Summer of Learning Live 2024 Collection](#), which includes recordings of keynote and spotlight speaker presentations from each of the conferences. Contact IDOE's [Office of Digital Learning](#) with any questions.

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## Special Educator Licensure, Recruitment, and Recognition

### Flexible Keys to Literacy Professional Development Options Available Now

Registration is now open for educators who hold an Indiana professional educator license to enroll in one of the new flexible professional development options outlined in [this memo](#). Additional information can be found [here](#), and the registration form with all available options can be found [here](#). Educators who previously registered are able to continue their current enrollment and can use the registration form to confirm their plans to remain in the live cohort sessions or choose a different option. Please contact IDOE's [Literacy Center](#) with any additional questions.

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### Approval Process for 80 Hours of Professional Development to Support Early Literacy Endorsement Requirements and Praxis Voucher Request

Educators who plan to add Indiana's Early Literacy Endorsement can follow the process outlined [here](#) to submit a request to verify completion of an approved 80 hours of professional development and request a Praxis Voucher. Contact [IDOE's Literacy Center](#) with any questions.

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### Early Literacy Endorsement Professional Development Verification

Verified programs that can be used to support the 80 hours of professional development needed for the Early Literacy Endorsement can be found on [this document](#). Training providers (including school districts) may request approval to certify which requirements are met through participation in the training by submitting [this form](#) with supporting evidence. The list of approved programs will be updated regularly. Contact IDOE's [Literacy Center](#) with any questions.

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## Updates from the U.S. Department of Education (ED)

### From the National Center on Deaf-Blindness (NCDB), Get Their Vision Tested, Too!

[The National Center on Deaf-Blindness \(NCDB\)](#) released a flyer to help spread the word about the importance of vision testing for children who are deaf or hard of hearing. [Get Their Vision Tested, Too!](#) explains how identifying combined hearing and vision loss can activate referral to important specialized services and supports. The flyer is available in both color and black and white PDFs, suitable for printing or electronic dissemination.

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## Additional Updates, Resources, and Opportunities

## Easterseals K-12 ATLAS (Assistive Technology Library and Services) Update

Easterseals has launched a new website specifically for Indiana's K-12 educators. Visit [K-12 ATLAS](#) for more information about the Assistive Technology Lending Library program, Accessible Educational Materials, and more. Join the mailing list to receive the latest news and updates from the K-12 ATLAS team.

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## HANDS in Autism® Trainings and Resources

### ***HANDS Developmental Disabilities and Autism ECHO Webinar Series and Recordings***

The Developmental Disabilities and Autism ECHO is based on the Project ECHO™ model that aims to share best practices and amplify training impact. The model serves as a means for specialists to deliver curriculum topics while peers and panelists offer insights on the corresponding cases presented. Live sessions and recordings are available. The live sessions occur on Fridays, from noon to 1:30 p.m. ET. To register for the live sessions or to learn more about dates and topics click [here](#). To view previously recorded sessions, create an account with Indiana University's Expand, a portal for professional development, [here](#); for additional directions on accessing recordings click [here](#).

### ***Next Steps Workshop***

Join the HANDS in Autism® Team in the upcoming no-cost Next Steps™ Workshop to learn more about characteristics of ASD and related disabilities, considerations for all family members, statewide and local supports, rights and regulations, financial considerations, best practices and practical strategies available to support individuals on the spectrum and their families or caregivers, as well as collaboration pointers for working with your school and other providers.

Next Steps™ is primarily designed for primary caregivers who have a child who has recently been diagnosed with autism spectrum disorder (ASD). However, this workshop is also beneficial for other caregivers, educational or therapy professionals, medical providers, and other adult family members. The 2-day sessions allow you to apply and practice what you have learned and develop tools and strategies applicable to your setting. Date options are Tuesday, October 29, and Thursday, October 31, Tuesday, November 12, and Thursday, November 14, and Tuesday, December 10, and Thursday, December 12. All sessions are from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. ET. Register [here](#).

### ***Make-It Take-It Series(MITI)***

This free virtual workshop series is designed to educate participants about evidence-based strategies, learn how to use these strategies with individuals with ASD across settings (home, school, community), as well as to discuss and plan various materials tailored for the individual(s) you know. These interactive workshops provide an opportunity to learn about and create tools used to support individuals with ASD. Each session will focus on a different area of interest. Sessions are online, Wednesdays from noon to 2 p.m. ET. It is not necessary to complete all of the sessions in the workshop series, so register [here](#) for all or some of the sessions.

### ***Intensive Workshop for Paraprofessionals, Direct Support Providers, Assistants, and Support Personnel***

Join the HANDS in Autism® Team for an intensive workshop for paraprofessionals, assistants, and support personnel that focuses on providing hands-on experience and coaching in a simulated setting. While the program includes traditional instructional methods such as lectures and discussion, the emphasis of the workshop is building increased knowledge and skill of the process to support students with varying levels of disability and need in achieving maximum success. Trainings are available either in-person or virtually, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. ET on either Friday, September 27, Friday, November 1, or Friday, December 6. In most cases, accommodations for an alternate date can be made upon request for both the virtual and in-person training. The cost is \$150. Register [here](#).

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## Universal Design for Learning (UDL) Technology Coach Cohort Now Open

IDOE's Office of Digital Learning is partnering with [Novak Education](#) to provide those in educational technology coaching roles with an opportunity to earn a UDL Associate Level 1 Credential. This opportunity will support participants in the why, what, and how of UDL principles while developing coaching techniques to empower and support teachers in integrating UDL effectively. Those registering must be able to attend two in-person workshops, six virtual sessions, and complete an online course. Register to participate via [this form](#). Registration will close on Friday, September 27, or when registration reaches 90 participants who meet the requirements. Contact IDOE's [Office of Digital Learning](#) with any questions.

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## FROM THE INDIANA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH (IDOH): Center for Deaf and Hard of Hearing Education's Connections Newsletter, Vol 9, Issue 7

IDOH's Center for Deaf and Hard of Hearing Education has released the latest issue of the [Connections Newsletter](#). This issue contains information on language evaluations and deaf and hard of hearing eligibility. The Center is a statewide resource with a multidisciplinary team available for technical assistance to deaf and hard of hearing children, families, and professionals from Part C to Part B transition to school exit. An introduction to the IDOH's language team is included. Contact [cdhhe@health.in.gov](mailto:cdhhe@health.in.gov) for further information and see previous newsletters [here](#).

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## Transition Center Webinar Opportunities

The Indiana Secondary Transition Resource Center (INSTRC) a project of the Center on Community Living and Careers (CCLC) is proud to announce three upcoming webinars: "Portfolios and Profiles: Portals to Competitive, Integrated Employment," "Developing Quality Transition IEPs," and "Using the Transition IEP to Focus Education and Build Relationships."

- **Developing Quality Transition IEPs - Tuesday, October 1, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. ET:** Discusses the foundational elements of the transition IEP, including alignment across all sections. For teachers new to transition.
- **Using the Transition IEP to Focus Education and Build Relationships - Thursday, October 3, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. ET:** Includes the development of quality transition IEPs and strategies to improve relationships with families and students. For experienced transition educators.
- **Portfolios and Profiles: Portals to Competitive Integrated Employment (CIE) - Thursday, October 17, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. ET:** Covers the basics of transition portfolios, employment profiles and the use of portfolio variations. Designed to assist individuals with disabilities in reaching their life goals, including employment and community belonging. Geared for a national audience.

These webinars are for anyone wishing to learn about the quality components of the transition IEP and transition portfolio that are used for students who receive special education services at the secondary level. Each webinar costs \$35.00. Registration information can be found [here](#). Mark your calendars for these informative webinars! For questions please contact [iuconfs@iu.edu](mailto:iuconfs@iu.edu).

## Indiana Council for Exceptional Children (CEC) Institute: 2024-2025

CEC, Indiana Council for Exceptional Children (INCEC), and IDOE have partnered to provide first and second-year special education teachers with a one-year full membership to CEC and INCEC and registration to CEC2025 virtual convention. Recipients will receive professional development materials and access to local and statewide resources and events. Special education teachers currently completing courses for special education licensure qualify to join. Complete [this form](#) to provide your first and second-year special education teacher names. Contact [Traci Henn](#) or IDOE's [Office of Special Education](#) with questions.

### Upcoming Dates



Tuesday, September 24, from 10:30 a.m. to noon ET	DEX Office Hours: Alternative Education
Tuesday, September 24, from 1 to 4 p.m. ET	<a href="#">Indicator 13 TA Open Office Hours</a>
Wednesday, September 25, from 11 a.m. to noon ET	<a href="#">Office Hours for FY 2025 IDEA Part B 611 and 619 Applications</a>
Thursday, September 26, from 1 to 4 p.m. ET	<a href="#">Indicator 13 TA Open Office Hours</a>
Friday, September 30	FY 2023 IDEA Part B Grant Budget Modifications Due
Tuesday, October 1, from 1 to 2:30 p.m. ET	DEX Office Hours
Tuesday, October 1	Deadline for I AM Waiver Extension public comment
Friday, October 4	Deadline for I AM Test Blueprint educator surveys
Friday, October 4, from 1 to 2 p.m. ET	<a href="#">Office Hours for FY 2025 IDEA Part B 611 and 619 Applications</a>
Friday, October 4, from 1 to 2 p.m. ET	<a href="#">Special Education Directors Symposium</a>
Tuesday, October 8, from 10:30 a.m. to noon ET	DEX Office Hours

Thursday, October 10, from 9 to 10:30 a.m. ET	<a href="#">Special Education Directors Symposium</a>
Thursday, October 10, from 4 to 5 p.m. ET	<a href="#">New Special Education Teacher Office Hours</a>
Friday, October 11	FY 2025 IDEA Part B 619 Applications Due
Tuesday, October 15, from 1 to 2:30 p.m. ET	DEX Office Hours: Homeless, McKinney Vento
Friday, October 18	FY 2025 IDEA Part B 611 Applications Due
Tuesday, October 22, from 10:30 a.m. to noon ET	DEX Office Hours: High Ability
Friday, October 25	FY 2025 IDEA Part B Mandatory CCEIS applications due
Tuesday, October 29, from 1 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. ET	DEX Office Hours: Special Education
Tuesday, December 3, and Wednesday, December 4	Elevating Education 2024: Improving Outcomes for All Statewide Conference

## Additional Resources

- [Office of Special Education](#)
- [Office of Special Education Moodle Community](#)



## Department News

- **09/19/24** More Students Have Access to a High-Quality Special Education Teacher Following Strategic Investments in Indiana's Educator Pipeline
- **09/11/24** Chronic Absenteeism Improves in Indiana for Second Year in a Row, Still Higher than Pre-Pandemic
- **09/06/24** Third Annual Red Carpet Event Celebrates Indiana's Top Schools and Educators
- **09/04/24** Indiana Department of Education Announces Indiana Teacher of the Year Top Three Finalists

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