



Teacher Newsletter

Monthly Updates from the Indiana Department of Education

March 3, 2025

We know that real impact for students happens at the educator-level. In fact, we have seen time and again when teacher leaders are a catalyst for positive change in schools...whether that means adding student opportunities that did not previously exist...or creating connections with higher education and employers that may bring to light career possibilities that a student would not have otherwise considered or imagined. You (our teachers!) are our difference-makers for students, and this newsletter from the Indiana Department of Education (IDOE) is dedicated to elevating your work and providing new information and resources to help you do what you do best – and that’s serving Indiana’s students.

Educator Pipeline (Attract, Prepare, Retain)

Register for Be A Teacher Day on Tuesday, April 1

Join Indiana Family, Career, and Community Leaders of America (FCCLA) for Be A Teacher Day, which will take place on Tuesday, April 1, at the Fishers Event Center. This event allows students interested in a future in education or early childhood education to connect with numerous college programs around the state. Learn more about this event and register [here](#) by Monday, March 17. Contact [Alyson McIntyre-Reiger](#) with any questions.

Enroll for Transition Educators Facilitating Employment Online Course

Indiana University’s Center on Community Living and Careers provides Enroll for Transition Educators Facilitating Employment, a 10-week, self-paced online training covering essential topics such as developing transition programs, customized employment, job development, assistive technology, and federal programs that support community employment. With approximately 40 hours of content, this course provides the foundation and strategies needed to enhance postsecondary and employment outcomes for individuals with disabilities. [Registration is open now](#), and the course will take place from Monday, April 7, through Sunday, June 13. Contact [Lori Pierce](#) with questions.

Aspiring Statewide Special Education Teacher (ASSET) Cohort Four Application Now Available

Applications for cohort four of ASSET are now available. ASSET is an approved alternative licensure program delivered by the Indiana Council of Administrators of Special Education (I-CASE) for currently-licensed Indiana teachers to add a special education teaching credential. Completing the program and passing the licensing exam allows educators to add Mild Interventions, Intense Interventions, or both to their existing credentials. More information on this flexible alternative licensure program and registration for cohort four can be found [here](#). Contact the ASSET team via [email](#) or phone at (317) 759-2895 extension 1 with questions.

Literacy & STEM Support

Teaching Modernized Algebra II Using Indiana Academic Standards

The 2023 revision of the Indiana Academic Standards for Algebra II marked a fundamental shift in how the content and processes of Algebra II are organized and taught. The strong focus on mathematical modeling, function families, and data revitalizes Algebra II and increases its relevance for students. Join Dr. Mike Steele on Wednesday, March 12, at 4 p.m. ET, as he provides an overview of the organization of the standards and direct hands-on support to help you make the standards come alive in your Algebra II classroom and get your students excited! [Register for this session](#) in the Indiana Learning Lab. Contact IDOE’s [Office of Teaching and Learning](#) with any questions.

Indiana Literacy Center

Early Literacy Endorsement Professional Development (PD) and Praxis Voucher Request

Educators who hold an Indiana professional educator license can register [here](#) for flexible [Keys to Literacy options](#). Educators planning to earn Indiana’s Early Literacy Endorsement can follow [this process](#) to submit a request to verify completion of the approved 80 hours and request a Praxis voucher, if needed. Contact IDOE’s [Literacy Center](#) with questions.

Praxis 5205 Test Guidance

Educators using test vouchers (or any payment method) must review information and the checklist before registering for the Praxis 5205 [here](#). Educators using test vouchers (or any payment method) who wish to use a school-owned computer to take at-home Praxis exams should review and confirm that the computer equipment and environment meet the test-at-home requirements and that network security settings will not block the test platform software. Please review the [At-Home Testing Requirements](#) to ensure the testing session will not be invalidated, thus requiring payment for another exam session. For support with Praxis, contact [ETS Praxis Customer Support](#) or 1-800-772-9476.

Assessment Updates

ILEARN Hand-Scoring Applications Close Friday, March 14

Educators are invited to apply to score open-ended student responses for the ILEARN assessments this spring. This opportunity will be remote and will occur from Tuesday, April 8, through Friday, May 23, during the ILEARN hand-scoring window. [Applications](#) must be submitted by Friday, March 14. More information can be found in the [FAQ resource](#), webinar [slides](#) and [recording](#), and [flyer](#). Contact the [BC Forward Help Desk](#) with additional questions.

IREAD Testing Window Opens Monday, March 3

The IREAD testing window is open Monday, March 3, through Friday, March 14. Review the following reminders:

- Ensure all students have participated in the [practice test](#) prior to operational testing.
- Additional orders for paper testing materials close Friday, March 7, for new or updated student accommodations.
- Ensure student data is accurate within the Test Information Distribution Engine (TIDE), including the *Tested Grade* setting for grade four and five students.
- Ensure that test administration materials are prepared, including the [IREAD Test Administrator’s Manual \(TAM\)](#) and accommodated scripts, as needed.

Refer to the [IREAD Milestones](#) for an overview of tasks. Contact IDOE’s [Office of Student Assessment](#) with any questions.

SAT School Day Testing Window Opens Monday, March 3

The SAT School Day testing window is Monday, March 3, through Friday, March 14. Cohort 2026 students must participate in the assessment, and schools are encouraged to administer the SAT School Day early in the window to ensure all students have time to complete testing. Refer to the [SAT School Day Milestones](#) and [SAT School Day Test Window Checklist](#) for an overview of preparation tasks. Contact IDOE’s [Office of Student Assessment](#) with any questions.

ILEARN Mathematics Performance Level Descriptors (PLDs) and Item Specifications

The ILEARN Mathematics PLDs and Items Specifications for all Indiana Academics Standards in grades 3-8 are available and linked in the [Indiana Assessment Framework](#). These Indiana-specific PLDs and Item Specifications support teachers and students by translating academic standard proficiency expectations into meaningful descriptions and examples of proficiency at the standard level. Item Specifications continue to be updated with additional example items and clarifications. Contact IDOE’s [Office of Student Assessment](#) with any questions.

Indiana Learning Lab

March Professional Development (PD) with IDOE

March PD with IDOE begins on Wednesday, March 5, at 4 p.m. ET with Unlocking the Power of Student Facing AI for Elementary Students presented by Alana Winnick, author of “The Generative Age” as part of the [Artificial Intelligence \(AI\) Insights for Educators Series](#). View a full list of March sessions [here](#). To register for workshops, or view on-demand sessions, create a free Learning Lab account by visiting the [LINK Portal](#) or the [Indiana Learning Lab](#) directly and use your school email address to log in. Contact IDOE’s [Office of Digital Learning](#) with any questions.

Additional Professional Development

Registration Now Available for TitleCon 2025

Registration is now open for TitleCon 2025: Learning from Yesterday, Planning for Tomorrow, which will be held in Plainfield from Tuesday, April 15, through Thursday, April 17. Learn more and register for this free conference [here](#). Contact IDOE’s [Office of Title Grants and Support](#) with questions.

Certificate of Multilingual Proficiency (CoMP) Informational Meeting

Indiana’s CoMP benefits secondary multilingual students by validating their fluency across multiple languages. To learn more, join IDOE for an informational webinar on Thursday, March 6, from 3:30 to 4:30 p.m. ET. Participation, implementation, and guidance updates will be discussed. No registration is required, and the access link can be found on the [Indiana EL Professional Development Opportunities Calendar](#). More information can be found on IDOE’s [CoMP webpage](#). Contact IDOE’s [Office of English Learning and Migrant Education](#) with any questions.

Recognition Opportunities

Nominations Open for the Indiana History Teacher of the Year Award

In partnership with IDOE, the [Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History](#) awards the Indiana History Teacher of the Year title each year in its effort to promote the study and love of American history. State winners are then considered for the National History Teacher of the Year award. For more information about the nomination process and to nominate an Indiana history teacher, click [here](#). Nominations must be submitted by Wednesday, April 30. Contact IDOE’s [Office of Educator Talent](#) with any questions.

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](#).

News from Our Partners

FROM THE INDIANA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT: Complete the Environmental Education Program Survey

IDEM wants to hear from educators throughout Indiana! Complete the Environmental Education Program Survey to share your important feedback on content and programming. Complete the survey [here](#), and access IDEM’s [Environmental Education website](#) for more information.

FROM THE INDIANA BAR FOUNDATION: Register Now for the 2025 Indiana Civics Summit

Registration is now open for the [annual, one-day Indiana Civics Summit](#), which will be held on Thursday, April 17, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. ET at Ivy Tech Conference Center in Indianapolis. This year’s keynote speaker will be Jeffrey Rosen, President and CEO of the National Constitution Center. Seating is limited to the first 200 registrants, and the deadline to register is Monday, April 7. Learn more and register [here](#).

FROM THE CENTRAL INDIANA EDUCATIONAL SERVICE CENTER (CIESC): Teacher Industry Experiences in Indiana (TIE-IN) - Bridging Classrooms and Industry

Elevate your teaching with [TIE-IN](#), a transformative program through a partnership between IDOE and CIESC, connecting educators with real-world industry insights. Open to all licensed Indiana educators, TIE-IN offers three unique opportunities, all of which include a stipend: formal coursework with state universities, personalized externships with industry partners, and immersive single-day visits to diverse businesses. Explore fields like healthcare, engineering, information technology, and more to enrich your curriculum, build professional networks, and create innovative, student-focused projects supported by a vibrant community of practice. Contact [Ryan Murray](#) with any questions.



Weekly Updates

View previous weekly updates from Dr. Katie Jenner [here](#).

Stay Informed

Did you miss a message? View previous weekly emails [here](#).

Dr. Jenner’s Weekly Update from the Indiana Department of Education is distributed every Friday morning.

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