

IMPROVING QUALITY & RAISING ACADEMIC STANDARDS



Unprecedented growth in literacy. Historic public-private investments in literacy have allowed the Indiana Department of Education (IDOE) to deploy a number of comprehensive, strategic solutions aimed at ensuring more Hoosier students are reading by the end of third grade. Literacy rates have now increased for *four consecutive years*, and the nearly 5 percentage point increase in 2025 represents the **largest-ever single-year increase** since the start of IREAD in 2013. Continued work includes:

- **Indiana Literacy Cadre:** Provides early elementary teachers with embedded instructional coaching and support aligned with science of reading practices.
 - **Cohort 1 (2022):** 41 schools | **Cohort 2 (2023):** 199 schools | **Cohort 3 (2024):** 489 schools | **Cohort 4 (2025):** 564 schools
 - Schools that participated in the Literacy Cadre had a **7 percentage point increase** in students passing IREAD in 2025. This is **nearly double** that of non-Cadre schools.
- **Indiana Learns:** Provides \$1,000 grants towards learning support and tutoring services to students and families, regardless of their ability to pay.
 - Over **25,000 students** have enrolled, and over **280,000 hours** of tutoring have been provided.
 - An external study comparing students who participated in Indiana Learns to those who did not participate found **statistically significant results for students in ELA and math** proficiency.
- **Summer Learning Labs:** Provides free or low-cost, high-quality summer learning opportunities.
 - After just five weeks, students who attended the Summer Learning Labs in 2025 achieved **double-digit percentage point proficiency gains** in both reading and math.
- **IREAD at Second Grade:** Provides access to an early “On Track indicator” for parents/families and teachers to determine if students will master foundational reading skills by the end of third grade.
 - **School Participation:** 385 in spring 2022; 771 in spring 2023; and 1,076 in spring 2024; **all second grade students participated** in spring 2025.
 - **68% of second graders either Passed or are On-Track** to pass by the end of third grade.
 - With the help of this early indicator, over 65% of second graders who were At-Risk in 2024 **passed in 2025**.



Re-envisioning how we measure school and student performance through Indiana GPS. This dashboard provides students and stakeholders with learner-centered, future-focused data that displays how our students are building the necessary knowledge and skills for success. This includes academic mastery; career and postsecondary readiness - credentials and experiences; communication and collaboration; work ethic; and civic, financial, and digital literacy.

- Indiana GPS has been **highlighted nationally** on multiple occasions and **earned national awards** in 2023 and 2025 for educational leadership, impact, and innovation.



Redesigning school accountability. As we continue to expand educational opportunities for students in Indiana, how we measure school accountability must also evolve, elevating academic mastery in addition to skills and experiences. IDOE continues to engage stakeholders to develop a new accountability system that is student-centered, increases transparency, provides actionable feedback, and is data-driven.



Streamlined Indiana Academic Standards by more than 25%. To ensure students are honing in on essential content, IDOE brought together content-area experts, educators, as well as parents and families to review the current standards and determine appropriate, optimal streamlining.



Redesigning Indiana’s largest assessment as a through-year vs. summative model. The ILEARN through-year assessment includes three checkpoints and a shortened summative assessment at the end of the year, allowing educators to provide targeted interventions for students who are working toward key subject area milestones.

- During the pilot year, **75% of schools** serving grades 3–8 — about 1,350 schools — participated.
 - Thousands of educators provided feedback, helping **shape and improve the statewide implementation**.
- The 2025–2026 school year is the first year that **all schools are participating**.

PREPARING STUDENTS FOR SUCCESS BEYOND HIGH SCHOOL



Maximizing the four years of high school. In December 2024, after more than a year of stakeholder feedback, the State Board of Education **unanimously approved the new diploma structure**, beginning with the class of 2029.

- This includes **one base diploma** with minimum requirements for each student, as well as the opportunity for students to earn **readiness seals** aligned with their unique path.
- A number of **innovative partnerships** have been developed with higher education, business and industry, and the Indiana National Guard to provide **guarantees for students** who earn Indiana's new honors plus readiness seals.
 - For example, all seven of our state's public colleges and universities and an increasing number of private institutions are **guaranteeing automatic acceptance** into their school for any student who earns the enrollment honors plus seal.



Incentivizing key outcomes for students. To ensure we remain laser-focused on student outcomes, additional incentive funding will be awarded to schools that **graduate students with honors and honors plus seals** in one of the three pathways.

INCREASING K-12 FUNDING - PARENT CHOICE FOR THEIR CHILD'S NEEDS



Expanded learning options for Hoosier students and families.

- Worked to **increase K-12 education funding by approximately \$1.8 billion** from FY 2019 to FY 2025, supporting all school types, including traditional public, charter, and non-public schools.
- Implemented the **largest expansion of Choice Scholarship eligibility in state history**, removing financial barriers to students accessing quality educational opportunities that better meet their interests.
 - Approximately 43,000 recipients in fall 2021 and **over 75,000 in fall 2024**
- Provided implementation support for the creation of **Indiana's Education Scholarship Account (ESA) program**, which empowers each and every student to tailor their education experience to their unique needs.
- Implemented the **first-in-the-nation Career Scholarship Accounts (CSAs) program** to support completion of credentials of value and quality work-based learning experiences, including modern youth apprenticeships.

BUILDING A STRONG TEACHER PIPELINE



Created a comprehensive teacher supply and demand marketplace. This free tool tracks vacancies, matches teachers with open positions, and helps recruit new teachers.

- The average district now has access to **over 2,000 new candidates**.
- To date, the **majority of school corporations and charter schools are using** the full marketplace.



Created I-SEAL (special education), I-TELL (English learner), and I-STEM (science, technology, engineering, and math) to address teacher shortages in high-need areas of expertise.



- **I-SEAL** streamlines the required coursework for teachers to earn full special education licensure. The program provides financial assistance and scholarships to educators while they complete the coursework.
 - **Over 1,350 participants are currently enrolled**, and **over 850 have completed** I-SEAL.



- **I-TELL** funds tuition, books, and material fees for current educators/bachelor degree holders to complete coursework leading to English as a New Language (ENL) licensure.
 - **Nearly 300 participants are currently enrolled**, and **nearly 300 have completed** I-TELL.



- **I-STEM** provides free tuition and books to eligible candidates for STEM areas. Additional stipends are also available to incentivize employment in rural districts.
 - **Over 192 participants are currently enrolled**, and **nearly 650 have completed** I-STEM.