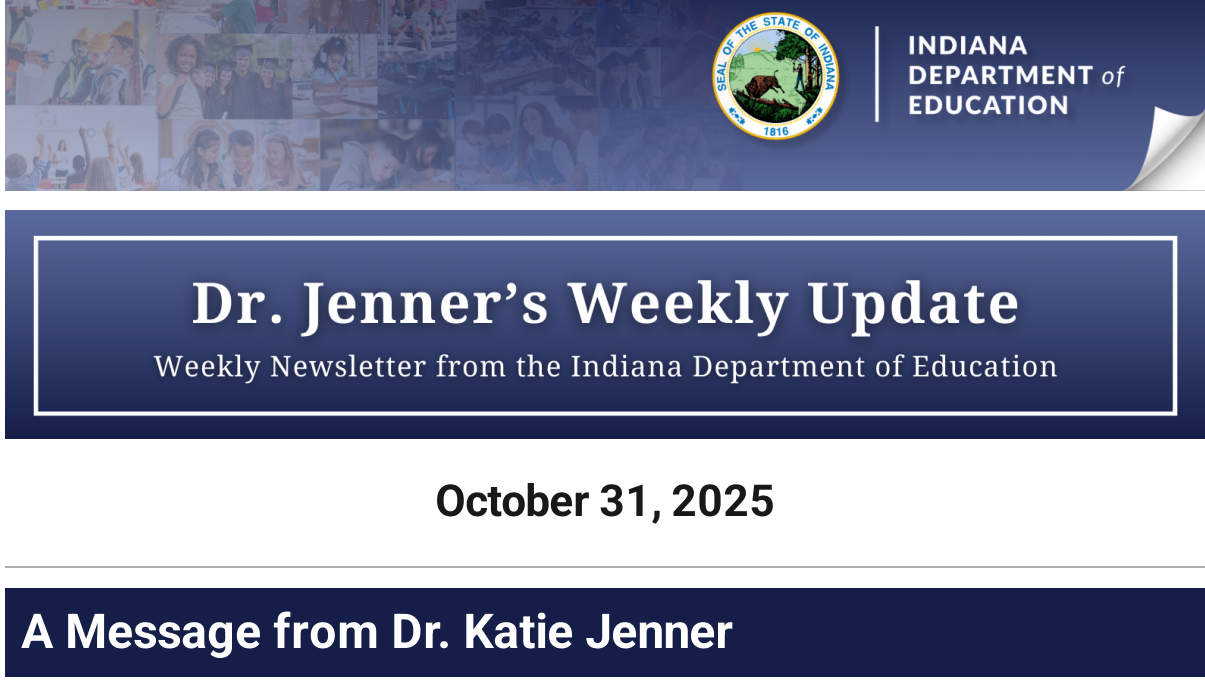


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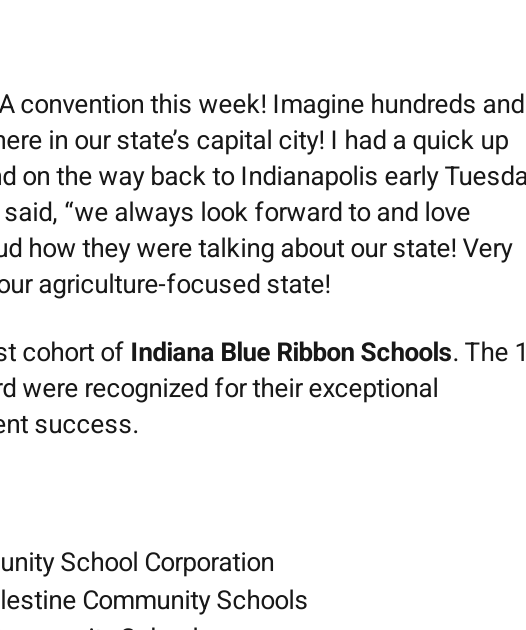
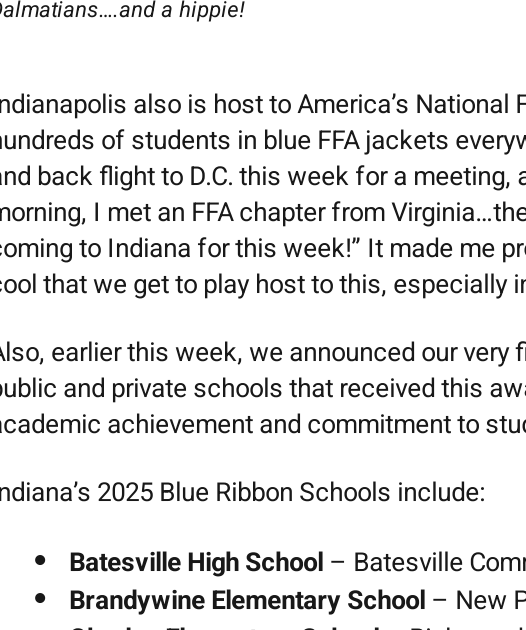
Dr. Jenner's Weekly Update

Weekly Newsletter from the Indiana Department of Education

October 31, 2025

A Message from Dr. Katie Jenner

Halloween on a Friday...fun, exhausting, energetic...we all likely have words to describe it! Our schools are no doubt hopping today as some of our students have already had a fair amount of candy and are gearing up for Halloween festivities, plus Friday Night Lights as the road to the state football championship continues. Thank you for everything you do to keep learning on track, especially during festive weeks like this one!



Some of my favorite Halloween memories from top left to bottom right: A photo of our girls at Hoosier Hysteria; when we dressed up as characters from It's the Great Pumpkin, Charlie Brown; when I dressed up with coworker (and now State Senator Carrasco) in a Jurassic Park theme; and finally, when we dressed as Cruella de Vil, her Dalmatians...and a hippie!

Indianapolis also is host to America's National FFA convention this week! Imagine hundreds and hundreds of students in blue FFA jackets everywhere in our state's capital city! I had a quick up and back flight to D.C. this week for a meeting, and on the way back to Indianapolis early Tuesday morning, I met an FFA chapter from Virginia...they said, "we always look forward to and love coming to Indiana for this week!" It made me proud how they were talking about our state! Very cool that we get to play host to this, especially in our agriculture-focused state!

Also, earlier this week, we announced our very first cohort of **Indiana Blue Ribbon Schools**. The 11 public and private schools that received this award were recognized for their exceptional academic achievement and commitment to student success.

Indiana's 2025 Blue Ribbon Schools include:

- **Batesville High School** – Batesville Community School Corporation
- **Brandywine Elementary School** – New Palestine Community Schools
- **Charles Elementary School** – Richmond Community Schools
- **Creekside Middle School** – Carmel Clay Schools
- **East Side Elementary School** – Clay Community Schools
- **Immaculate Heart of Mary School** – Indianapolis
- **South Terrace Elementary** – MSD North Posey County Schools
- **St. John the Evangelist School** – St. John
- **St. Louis de Montfort School** – Fishers
- **St. Mary's Catholic School** – North Vernon
- **St. Philip School** – Mount Vernon

As we celebrate this remarkable accomplishment, I want to commend the leadership of these schools, the dedication of their teachers and staff, and the incredible work ethic of the students and families. Together, they have created a culture of learning that maximizes every student's potential and prepares them for a future filled with opportunity.

We look forward to celebrating these schools again on Friday, November 21, at the fourth annual Educational Excellence Awards gala!

Thank you, as always, to the many students, educators, and staff, who make our schools great, and have a happy (and safe) Halloween!

Office of Assessment

NEW: Register for Upcoming College Board Training Opportunities

School staff involved in PSAT and SAT School Day testing can register for College Board training opportunities to support test administration and post-testing data use. In-person workshops to support PSAT data use and to prepare School Test Coordinators (STCs) for the SAT School Day will be held from Wednesday, December 3, through Thursday, December 11. PSAT workshops will be held from 9 to 11:30 a.m. local time. SAT workshops will be held from 12:30 to 3 p.m. local time. Registration links can be found below:

- Wednesday, December 3: Evansville [PSAT | SAT School Day](#)
- Thursday, December 4: Sellersburg [PSAT | SAT School Day](#)
- Friday, December 5: Greenwood [PSAT | SAT School Day](#)
- Tuesday, December 9: Merrillville [PSAT | SAT School Day](#)
- Wednesday, December 10: Fort Wayne [PSAT | SAT School Day](#)
- Thursday, December 11: Indianapolis [PSAT | SAT School Day](#)

Virtual options are also available for those unable to attend in-person:

- Thursday, November 20, 10 to 11 a.m. ET: [Fall 2025 PSAT Data Workshop Webinar](#)
- Friday, December 12, 10 to 11:30 a.m. ET: [SAT School Day 2026 STC Workshop #1 Webinar](#)

Contact [College Board](#) with any questions.

REMINDER: Indiana SAT Performance Level Descriptors

The Indiana SAT Performance Level Descriptors (PLDs) for [English/Language Arts](#) and [Mathematics](#) are now available on the High School tab of the respective Indiana Assessment Framework ([English/Language Arts](#) | [Mathematics](#)). The PLDs provide information about the knowledge and skills students must demonstrate to achieve different performance levels on the SAT, and directly relate those skills to Indiana Academic Standards. Contact the Indiana Department of Education's (IDOE's) [Office of Student Assessment](#) with questions.

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

NEW: School Year 2025-2026 Teacher Appreciation Grant Application

Updated guidance on the School Year 2025-2026 Teacher Appreciation Grant (TAG) can be found [here](#). The [TAG Application](#), including the [TAG Eligible Educators Report](#), is due by January 30, 2026. Recipients can anticipate distribution of funds before April 15, 2026. Questions may be directed to TAG@doe.in.gov.

NEW: 2025-2026 STEM Integration Grant

IDOE is pleased to announce the 63 recipients of the 2025-2026 STEM Integration Grant. This competitive grant opportunity supports schools and other eligible entities in providing opportunities to develop and implement STEM learning opportunities aligned with [Indiana's Priorities for STEM Education](#) and the [Indiana Academic Standards for Integrated STEM](#). A list of grant recipients can be found in [this memo](#). All 2025-2026 STEM Integration Grant recipients should attend the virtual [kick-off meeting](#) on Wednesday, November 5, from 2 to 3 p.m. ET to learn more about management of this grant. This meeting will be recorded for those unable to attend. Contact IDOE's [Office of Curriculum and Instruction](#) with any questions.

NEW: AI is Computer Science - IDOE Partnering with Nextech to Celebrate CSed Week

CSed Week begins Monday, December 8. This year, IDOE is partnering with Nextech to empower students through Code.org's [Hour of AI](#) and help educators use computer science as a home for AI literacy and education. Join us for a session in the [Indiana Learning Lab](#) on Thursday, November 13, at 4 p.m. ET to learn about opportunities to bring AI literacy to your school and integrate AI instruction into your computer science classroom. Review the schedule of activities and workshops for CSedWeek. Contact IDOE's [Office of Curriculum and Instruction](#) with questions.

REMINDER: Artificial Intelligence (AI) Guidance Update

[Indiana's AI Guidance](#) has been updated to include key considerations related to AI policy and additional links to resources available in the Indiana Learning Lab. It is designed to be easy to unpack, encourage conversation about each of the key topics, and share resources for further learning. Future resources and professional development will continue to be released that build on this guidance. Contact IDOE's [Digital Learning Team](#) with any questions.

Office of Educator Talent and Literacy Center

NEW: I-STEM Round #2 is Now Open

IDOE and the Central Indiana Education Services Center are partnering for a second round of Indiana's STEM Educator Expansion initiative, which aims to increase the number of STEM teachers. The initiative is open to current educators and those interested in a Transition to Teaching program. Those eligible may receive free tuition and books, allowing them to complete the I-STEM program at no cost. Additional stipends are also available to incentivize employment in rural districts, etc. Learn more and register [here](#). Contact [Susie Coleman](#) at CIESC with any questions.

REMINDER: Continuum of Support

Pursuant to [IC 20-32-8.5-2](#) and [IC 20-32-5.1-20](#), IDOE developed the following [guidance](#) to help schools support students who are at risk of not being proficient in reading. This guidance focuses on using data and instruction to meet students' literacy needs. Access the [IDOE Instructional Frameworks](#), available in the Indiana Learning Lab, to learn more information regarding how the Indiana Academic Standards fit within this framework. Contact IDOE's [Literacy Center](#) with any questions.

REMINDER: Webinar to Support Preferred Universal Screener Acadience Reading

Acadience Learning, Inc. will hold a webinar on Wednesday, November 5, at 10:30 a.m. ET. This session is designed to support your understanding of the data views in Acadience Learning Online (ALO). Participants will be guided through on how to navigate their current benchmark results in ALO, helping them move from raw data to actionable understanding. Click [here](#) to join. Contact IDOE's [Literacy Center](#) with any questions.

Office of School Finance

REMINDER: Common School Loans

IDOE's Office of School Finance is now accepting applications for construction and technology common school loans from corporations, charter schools, and school corporation career and technical education schools through Friday, November 21. The application and details can be found in the [Public School Finance Community in Moodle](#) under Common School Funds – Fall. Contact IDOE's [Office of School Finance](#) with any questions.

REMINDER: Membership Conflict Petition Process

Please read this [memo](#) regarding the membership conflict petition process. Friday, November 7, is the deadline for a school corporation or charter school to file a petition. Contact IDOE's [Office of School Finance](#) with any questions.

Office of Special Education, English Learning, and Migrant Education

NEW: IDOE Special Programs for Multilingual Learners Office Hours

Join us for a virtual office hours session on Thursday, November 13, at 10 a.m. ET focused on support for IDOE Special Programs, the new statewide platform to house Individual Learning Plans (ILPs) and additional documentation for multilingual learners. In this session, updates to EL-related features of the system will be reviewed, along with time for questions. 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: In-Person WIDA Workshop - Instructional Planning for the Bilingual Classroom

WIDA will be facilitating an in-person, all-day workshop on Thursday, November 20, at MSD Warren Township. This free, interactive workshop is designed for Spanish bilingual education or dual language teachers and will focus on instructional planning that will elevate the assets of their multilingual learners. This session will be delivered primarily in Spanish. Registration is required via [Jotform](#) by Friday, November 7. Space is limited, and LEAs may send three participants. Contact IDOE's [Office of English Learning and Migrant Education](#) with any questions.

REMINDER: FY24 IDEA Part B 611 & 619 Reimbursement Requests Required Back Up

IDOE is required to obtain all supporting documentation for reimbursement requests beyond the end date of the grant award (i.e., federal award ending 09/30 requires reimbursement request paid to the LEA 10/01 - 12/15 on the closing grant), have supporting documentation accompanying the reimbursement request to ensure that all activities and related expenses took place within the associated period of availability for the federal project being charged.

Office of Title Grants and Support

NEW: Upcoming 2025-2026 Comparability Report Deadline

LEAs received a memo on Monday, October 20, with instructions for completing the 2025-2026 Comparability Report. The process is the same as in previous years, and will be completed in the Title I App Center. All LEAs are required to submit this report on or before Saturday, November 15. Contact your Title I grants specialist with any questions.

REMINDER: Federal Government Shutdown

IDOE will continue the normal operations of programs funded by federal grants, as the majority of IDOE's federal funding is already authorized for the 2025-2026 school year. If the shutdown lasts for an extended period, IDOE will re-evaluate the situation, along with our state-level partners, and will notify schools accordingly.

Office of Educational Options and Quality

NEW: Indiana Schools Selected to Lead Innovation in Facilities and Transportation

Three Indiana school groups have been chosen to lead a three-year pilot designed to increase community collaboration and maximize the use of school facilities and/or transportation services. Eastern Hancock Schools, the Career Academy Network of Public Schools, and a coalition of over 50 Indianapolis schools will each pilot innovative strategies to improve efficiency, expand student access, and foster community collaboration. More information on the School Facilities and Student Transportation Pilot Programs can be found [here](#).

Indiana Commission for Higher Education

NEW: Industry Certification Reimbursement

Reimbursement payments for industry certification exams taken during the 2024-2025 school year have been released by the State Comptroller's Office and will be deposited in school bank accounts by early next week. Eligible entities (school corporations, charter schools, and accredited nonpublic schools) can find the amount they are slated to receive [here](#). As [previously shared](#), amounts to each eligible entity are based on data submitted in INTERS to the Commission's CTE team prior to Friday, September 5.

Funds are distributed by the Commission with the following subject line: "FY 2024-2025 Industry Cert Reimbursement." Schools that receive this funding can utilize Fund 3749 with the receipt account number of 3293. There are no specific restrictions on usage of the funds.

In addition to finding total reimbursement amounts in the document linked above, high schools or CTE districts can run a report in [InTERS](#) showing all certifications reported by their school or district for reimbursement and the reimbursement rate for each eligible certification. Instructions to run that report can be found [here](#). Questions regarding the industry certification reimbursement process can be shared with CTE@che.in.gov.

NEW: Work-Based Learning (WBL) Reporting

As shared in [other communications](#), secondary WBL hours and other details related to WBL experiences can be reported in [InTERS](#). Hours can be input at any time of the year, and the hours will be recorded for students. This information should be reported for both CTE students and non-CTE students.

During the 2025-2026 school year, WBL hours must be reported in InTERS to count toward WBL requirements within relevant diploma seals. Guidance on WBL reporting can be found [here](#), and questions can be shared with CTE@che.in.gov. Schools that may not currently utilize InTERS and need access can reach out to InTERS Specialist Jedd Vance at JVance@che.in.gov.

Indiana School for the Blind and Visually Impaired

REMINDER: Strategies to Support Students who are Blind or Low Vision with Homework

Join the Indiana School for the Blind and Visually Impaired (ISBVI) Family Engagement Team for their next virtual session focused on strategies to make homework time less stressful and more successful! This session will take place on Wednesday, November 12, from 6 to 7 [p.m. ET](#). Educators and families will explore practical strategies that can be used to:

- Encourage independence and self-advocacy during homework time;
- Create accessible routines and study spaces;
- Integrate ECC skills like organization, assistive technology, and time management into daily tasks; and
- Strengthen home-school collaboration around homework expectations.

Click [here](#) to register.

News from Our Partners

NEW FROM DATA SCIENCE 4 EVERYONE: K12 Data Partners Program

Data Science 4 Everyone (DS4E) is excited to launch the K12 Data Partners Program, a new grant-funded pilot program designed to support K-12 districts in building and expanding high-quality data science education. At no cost to the district, a project manager will work closely with the district team to plan, launch, and strengthen data science initiatives that meet their individual needs and goals through activities like strategic planning, building stakeholder engagement, PLC formation, leadership coaching, resource navigation, and more. Apply by Monday, November 17, using [this form](#). Contact [Data Science 4 Everyone](#) with any questions.

REMINDER FROM THE NATIONAL GOVERNORS ASSOCIATION: Researching School Cell Phone Policies

On behalf of the National Governors Association, Dr. Angela Duckworth (author of Grit) is asking Indiana educators to join a landmark study on school cell phone policies. Share what you think is the best way to handle student cell phones! This brief survey will take less than five minutes and is completely confidential. Educators will be entered to win one of 10 \$500 gift cards for participating. Make your voice heard and complete the survey today by clicking [here](#).