



September 24, 2025

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.

Fiscal

FY2026 IDEA, Part B Allocations

The allocations for FY 2026 IDEA, Part B, have been posted to Moodle in the Allocations file of the FY 2026 Grant Information folder.

There are three columns of allocations on the spreadsheet: 611, 619, and CCEIS. For local educational agencies (LEAs) that have been mandated to use Part B funding from 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 on special education. For LEAs that have not been mandated to use CCEIS funds, there will be no amount listed in the third column.

RoboKind Grant Recipients Announced

Recipients for the [2025-2026 RoboKind Grant](#) have been announced. This grant is designed to provide funds for the purchase of technology and professional development to enhance the social and behavioral skills of students with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD). Contact IDOE's [Office of Special Education](#) with questions.

Encumber All FY 2024 Part B Grant Funds by Tuesday, September 30

All FY 2024 Part B funds must be encumbered by Tuesday, September 30. The FY 2024 Part B grant reimbursement requests must be submitted to specialdpartb@doe.in.gov by Monday, December 15. IDEA Part B monitoring reports are now past due. Please submit as soon as possible, if you have not already done so. 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. Contact IDOE's Office of Special Education at partbgrants@doe.in.gov with any questions.

FY2026 IDEA, Part B Applications

The FY 2026 Part B Applications and Instructions have been posted on Moodle in the FY 2026 Grant Information folder. Applications for 611 and 619 must be submitted in grant management system (<https://grantmanagement.doe.in.gov>) on/before the following dates:

- 611 - October 3, 2025
- 619 - October 3, 2025
- Mandatory CCEIS - October 25, 2025

A checklist has been inserted into each application to assist with completion.

New charter schools for 2025-2026 will be eligible for Part B funding in January 2026 and will be contacted by our office with instructions at that time.

Questions 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 can be found in the Office of Special Education Moodle Community> Fiscal->[Part B Grants for Special Education](#)> LEA Assigned Specialists.

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

The Indiana Department of Education (IDOE) is required to obtain all supporting documentation for reimbursement requests beyond the end date of the grant award (i.e., federal award ending September 30, requires reimbursement request received from October 1, to December 15 on the closing grant), and 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.

Document(s) supporting the reimbursement request to ensure grantees are accounting for the total amount requested and that expenses were properly encumbered by Tuesday, September 30, must be submitted.

Acceptable documentation may include:

- Paid dates
- Receipts or invoices showing as payment
- Purchase order or encumbrance dates (handwritten is not acceptable)
- Ledger or computer document showing dates and expenses (Excel is not acceptable)
- Amounts total the reimbursement request reviewed

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

Monitoring

Transition to Kindergarten Summit

The IDOE Office of Special Education is pleased to once again partner with the Head Start Collaboration Office and Office of Kindergarten Readiness for its annual Transition to Kindergarten Summit on Friday, October 24, from 12:30 to 2 p.m. ET. View the [flyer](#) today to register for this event.

Dispute Resolution

Protections for Students Not Yet Eligible for Special Education and Related Services

511 IAC 7-44-9 and 34 CFR § 300.534 address protections for students not yet eligible for special education and related services. The protections in Article 7 or IDEA, as it pertains to disciplinary procedures, may be asserted where the public agency is deemed to have knowledge that the student is a "student with a disability" before the behavior that precipitated the disciplinary action occurred. 511 IAC 7-44-9(a); 34 CFR § 300.534(a).

There are three circumstances in which a school is deemed to have knowledge. Those include: 1) the parent expressed concern in writing to licensed personnel that the student is in need of special education and related services; 2) the parent or the school requested an evaluation of the student; or 3) the teacher or other personnel of the school expressed specific concern about a pattern of behavior demonstrated by the student to supervisory personnel. 511 IAC 7-44-9(b); 34 CFR § 300.534(b).

The school is deemed not to have knowledge when any of the four apply: 1) the parent of the student did not allow an evaluation; 2) the parent refused special education and related services; 3) the school conducted an educational evaluation, the student was determined not eligible, and the parent was provided with notice of the determination; or 4) the parent revoked consent for special education and related services. 511 IAC 7-44-9(c); 34 CFR § 300.534(c).

If a school is deemed to have knowledge that the student was a student with a disability, the manifestation determination review (MDR) case conference committee (CCC) meeting must occur within 10 instructional days of the decision to change the student's placement. 511 IAC 7-44-5(a); 34 CFR § 300.530(e); and Letter to Nathan (OSEP, January 29, 2019).

For more information about Rule 44 Discipline Procedures, the IDOE's Office of Special Education has created [special education technical assistance](#) documents posted under the heading "Discipline Resources." Stay tuned as the October entry will provide additional details regarding how to conduct the MDR CCC meeting for students not yet determined eligible.

Technical Assistance and Professional Development

NEW: Spread the Word Resources

The IDOE Office of Special Education has created new resource documents regarding [Extended School Year Services](#), [Special Education Evaluations of English Learners](#), and [Related Services](#). Visit the Office of Special Education's [webpage](#) to view all Spread the Word resource documents. Please direct any questions to specialeducation@doe.in.gov.

2025-2026 Special Education Director Outreach Opportunities

The IDOE Office of Special Education is offering multiple support opportunities for Indiana special education directors and administrators throughout the 2025-2026 school year.

- The [Directors Symposium](#) is held monthly to provide relevant policy and resource updates that support directors in strengthening compliance in their corporation reporting.
- [Lead and Listen](#) sessions enable the OSE director and specialists to address [submitted follow-up questions](#) regarding the Directors Symposium.
- [New Director Community Chats](#) are also held monthly for special education directors and administrators, new to their positions within the last three years, to ask questions and gain additional information following the Directors Symposium.

Specific information, including dates, times, and registration information, can be found [here](#). Please direct any questions about director outreach opportunities to spedassistance@doe.in.gov.

INCEC New Educator Cohort Opportunity

The Indiana Council for Exceptional Children (INCEC) is proud to partner with IDOE to support first- and second-year special educators through our New Educator Cohort. This outreach is part of a coordinated effort to connect early-career educators with tools, resources, and a professional network that will help them thrive.

Participants in the cohort will receive:

- a complimentary CEC membership
- access to the CEC Learning Library, High-Leverage Practice Trifolds
- registration for the Wednesday, October 1, New Educator Institute
- a Survival Guide for Special Education Teachers
- access to the CEC Virtual Convention.

We appreciate your partnership in ensuring Indiana's newest special educators feel supported, connected, and equipped for success. Special Education Directors, sign up your new educators here: [New Educator Cohort Registration](#).

Special Education Licensure, Recruitment, and Recognition

Application Window Now Open for the 2025 Educational Excellence Awards

The fourth annual Indiana Educational Excellence Awards Gala will be held in Indianapolis on Friday, November 21. Financial awards will be granted to schools to celebrate their progress and achievement in supporting student excellence and growth. Schools who wish to be considered for an award should complete an application [here](#) by Friday, September 26, at 5 p.m. ET. Contact the [Office of Educator Talent](#) with any questions.

Teacher Nominations Open for the 2025 Educational Excellence Awards

In preparation for the fourth annual Educational Excellence Awards Gala in Indianapolis on Friday, November 21, IDOE is now accepting award nominations for outstanding teachers! Stakeholders are invited to nominate an excellent educator via this [form](#) by Friday, September 26, at 5 p.m. ET. Winners will be invited by IDOE to attend the awards gala to celebrate their achievement and dedication to serving Hoosier students. All certified Indiana teachers are eligible. Contact the [Office of Educator Talent](#) with any questions.

Additional Updates, Resources, and Opportunities

2025 Legislative Guidance

Following the close of each legislative session, 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.

ATLAS Project Newsletter Updates

Subscribe to the ATLAS Project newsletter to receive updates regarding new items in the lending library and other assistive technology support opportunities. Join the mailing list [here](#). Learn more about the ATLAS Project by visiting their [website](#). Contact [Keri Bridges](#) with any questions.

ISBVI Webinar: Orientation & Mobility (O&M)

The Indiana School for the Blind and Visually Impaired's (ISBVI's) next session will take place on Thursday, October 2, from 4 to 5 p.m. ET. This session will focus on Orientation and Mobility (O&M), a key skill area for building independence and confidence. What to expect:

- Learn sighted guide technique
- Explore landmarks and clues. What are the differences?
- Home and community safety strategies
- Tips for encouraging independence and exploration
- Resource kit sent to your home after the session

This session is especially designed for parents of a student who received O&M services. Educators and community members are also encouraged to join. Remember, if you can't make the scheduled time, be sure to continue to [register](#) and receive the recording after the session. Contact [Cassie Kessler](#) with any questions.

Work-Based Learning Menu of Experiences

To support the ongoing implementation of the new Indiana high school diploma, IDOE and the Indiana Commission for Higher Education Career and Technical Education Team have collaborated on Work-Based Learning (WBL) guidance. The WBL Menu of Experiences provides a summary of different types of WBL experiences available to students aligned to Indiana's new diploma requirements and Honors Seals. The menu includes links to examples of highlighted WBL experiences currently available to students across the state. It also includes additional guidance on the WBL definition approved within the diploma requirements to help stakeholders understand the key elements necessary for a WBL experience to count towards graduation requirements. The WBL Menu of Experiences can be [found here](#). Contact CTE@che.in.gov with any questions.

Learn More Indiana and Indiana529 Contest

As part of College GO! 2025, Learn More Indiana and Indiana529 are hosting a contest. Students in grades K-12 can visit [LearnMoreIndiana.org/collegego](#) and complete a short survey for a chance to win a \$1,000 Indiana529 account deposit. The contest closes on Friday, November 21.

Webinar from the Weiss Center

Please join the Weiss Center for their upcoming webinar, IDEA Public Reporting Access for All: How the Weiss Center Can Support You, on Tuesday, September 30, from 3 to 4 p.m. ET. During the webinar, participants will learn about Weiss Center resources, products, and solutions designed to help you build and sustain accessibility practices in your Part B and Part C programs. Learn how Weiss Center technical assistance can provide individualized support to you and your program through a partnership of IDEA experts and accessibility experts. This event will be recorded. Learn more and register for the September webinar [here](#).

HANDS in Autism®

Join HANDS in Autism® for a series of interactive trainings and webinars. Gain valuable insights, tools, and strategies to support autism education and inclusion.

- 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 are Fridays, noon to 1:30 p.m. ET. Recordings are available [here](#).

Register for live sessions [here](#).

- Let's Talk Series**

Join us for a free interactive session focused on various topics for individuals with autism on the second Thursday of each month from noon to 1:30 p.m. ET. More info at this [link](#). Register [here](#)

- Indiana Interagency Autism Coordinating Council (IIACC)**

The Council serves as a forum to increase public understanding and awareness of the state's collective priorities, activities, programs, policies, and research.

Meets quarterly; next meeting: Thursday, December 4, from 9 to 11:30 a.m. ET.

Register [here](#) for an upcoming meeting.

- Next Steps Workshop**

Next Steps™ two-day workshop 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. Sessions are monthly, from 11:30 am to 1:00 pm. ET. The next sessions are Tuesday, October 14, and Thursday, October 16.

Register [here](#).

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

This interactive virtual workshop series is designed to educate participants on evidence-based strategies for supporting individuals with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) and other developmental disabilities across various settings, including home, school, and the community. Participants will learn how to apply these strategies effectively and will have the opportunity to discuss and develop individualized materials tailored to the needs of the person or people they support.

October 1: Sensory Considerations
October 15: Charting the LifeCourse
October 29: Goal Writing

These events are online from noon to 2 p.m. ET. Register [here](#).

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

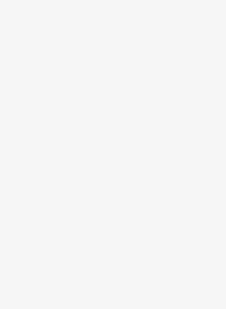
This is an intensive workshop for paraprofessionals, assistants, and support personnel that focuses on providing hands-on experience and coaching. While the program includes traditional instructional methods such as lectures and discussion, the emphasis of the workshop is on building increased knowledge and skill in the process to support students with varying levels of disability and need in achieving maximum success. Next session is Friday, September 26. More information and registration found [here](#):

- Individual and Group Programming**

We are excited to share our weekly virtual Group Programming sessions! Individuals across the lifespan, of various ages and levels of disabilities, can participate by themselves or with a caregiver. This month, we have scheduled sessions on both our core topics and additional subjects based on your feedback. Be sure to check out the upcoming sessions to find the ones that best meet your needs. [Click here to Register](#).

Sharing: Sign up for this OSE Newsletter

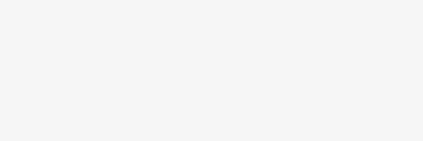
This is the IDOE Office of Special Education (OSE) monthly newsletter intended for school, district, co-op, and interlocal staff whose role necessitates receiving detailed information about special education monitoring, finance, data, etc. The OSE Newsletter is distributed on the fourth Monday of each month except for July. If you know someone who is interested in newly subscribing to the OSE Newsletter mailing list, please direct them to fill out this [form](#). Those already receiving this OSE Newsletter do not need to fill out the form. Previous newsletters can be found [here](#) and in [Moodle](#). If you have any questions, please reach out to spedassistance@doe.in.gov.



Department News

8/13/25 Indiana Achieves Unprecedented Growth in Third Grade Literacy Rates
7/24/2025 Indiana Seeks Federal Flexibility to Strengthen Student Success and Reduce Bureaucracy
7/24/2025 Public Comment on First Draft of School Accountability Rule Open Through August 22

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