



Indiana Department of Education

Dr. Katie Jenner, Secretary of Education

May 12, 2026

FILED

To: Indiana State Ethics Commission

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From: Indiana Department of Education

INDIANA STATE
ETHICS COMMISSION

RE: IDOE filing of travel ethics waiver

- A. IDOE employees: Lynn Schemel (Chief Academic Officer/Director of Assessment) and Cody Dehaven (High School Assessment Specialist)
- B. Nature and value of the gift: All travel costs for two IDOE employees, including travel to and from the airport, airfare, hotel accommodation for one night, and meals during travel days. Travel will occur June 1-3, 2026, Approximate value of the travel: \$1000 per IDOE employee.
- C. The donor of the gift: College Board, non-profit organization for the College Entrance Exam Board, headquartered in New York City. IDOE currently has a contractual relationship with College Board as College Board provides the SAT, the college entrance standardized exam, that Indiana students partake in.
- D. Statement on public interest: The Indiana Department of Education (IDOE) is a member of College Board's SAT User Group. SAT is the Indiana high school state and federal accountability assessment. The SAT User Group, which is comprised of representatives from each state, meets throughout the year to discuss updates and policy decisions regarding the SAT Suite of Assessments and their use for federal accountability purposes. The SAT User Group's June meeting is intended for state assessment directors, and the state assessment director and high school specialist from each state that uses the SAT Suite of Assessments as part of their state's accountability system for ESSA has been invited to attend. To ensure maximum participation in the review and decision-making processes, and to facilitate in-person discussions among state assessment directors, College Board is proposing to pay for attendees' travel costs and will cover the cost for two attendees from each state. Allowing College Board to pay for certain travel expenses related to the June 2026 meeting for IDOE's Director of Assessment, who is responsible for overseeing the SAT test administration program, and high school specialist allows IDOE federal and state funds to be expended on the development, administration, and resources associated with federal and state assessments, rather than travel.

Nicola Szarenski
Nicola Szarenski, IDOE Ethics Officer

5/12/2026
Date