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## An Update From the Indiana Department of Education for January 12, 2024



Indiana Department of Education sent this bulletin at 01/12/2024 07:00 AM EST



Indiana Department of Education

Dr. Katie Jenner, Secretary of Education

### A Message from Dr. Katie Jenner

The 2024 legislative session kicked off on Monday. This is a short session, which is often referred to as a “non-budget year,” meaning the focus over the next nine weeks will be on policy, not funding. Only “long sessions” (which occur in odd numbered years like 2025, 2027, etc.) are designed to consider additional funding opportunities.

Even with this being a short session (of which some are calling an “education session”), we are eagerly and actively rolling up our sleeves every day to keep improving opportunities and outcomes for students. Our team and I have already been in contact with several of you through email, phone calls, etc. about thoughts and suggestions to keep making it better for kids. Your solution ideas are VERY helpful, so please keep them coming!

Today, I'd like to specifically call out a few of our [K-12 legislative priorities](#) (some are in HB1243 and some are below) for this session...many of which YOU played a significant role in helping us develop. Let's take a look:



#### Ensuring students are reading by the end of third grade

Building on the momentum of the last three years, which includes the state's largest-ever commitment to [supporting educators with training in science of reading](#) (\$170 MILLION!), this year we are focused on *PROACTIVE student* intervention and support.

In advance of the legislative session, we very transparently [shared our current literacy data](#), which includes thousands of students who advance to fourth grade each year without foundational reading skills. I also met with multiple groups of educators, parents, and other stakeholders, and [shared my email address](#) to all, in an effort to get *your solution ideas* for tackling our reading crisis. As promised, I have read *every word* you sent...thank you! The legislative solutions outlined below were developed in response to our Indiana data and this feedback:

- More strategically utilizing the universal screener (assessing reading skills), which is currently required in kindergarten through second grade, to **identify and provide interventions, as early as possible, for students who are at-risk of not being proficient readers**. IDOE will also identify a preferred vendor for the assessment that will further support schools and educators.
- Proactively **administering IREAD to all second grade students** as an early 'On Track Indicator' tool to notify families and educators of any need for additional reading supports. The goal is to know at second grade if each student is reading proficiently, on-track, or at-risk.
- Ensuring parents and families receive **detailed information regarding their students' IREAD results**, as well as any additional supports or interventions being provided.
- Supporting required, locally-designed **summer school reading programs** for second grade students identified as 'at-risk' by the On Track indicator and non-passing third grade students.
- Creating a **strong definition of retention** for the first time to ensure *significantly fewer* third grade students who cannot read are promoted to fourth grade.
- Beginning with the spring 2025 IREAD administration, requiring **third grade students to be retained if they do not pass IREAD after two attempts** (spring and summer) unless:
  - The student has received a Good Cause Exemption (GCE).
  - The student has already been retained for one year.

- Requiring all non-passing students to **retake IREAD until they pass or enter seventh grade** (including GCE students) in order to ensure they master foundational reading skills.
- Increasing *targeted support* for students by ensuring schools continue to **monitor the progress of non-passing IREAD students** and provide remediation aligned to science of reading.

### Redesigning ILEARN

Rather than a one-time end-of-the-school-year state assessment, it has long been requested by educators and parents/families to have *more actionable learning data* throughout the year. Now is our time to get this done! In 2023, we [streamlined](#) Indiana's Academic Standards in English/language arts, mathematics, social studies, science, and computer science, reducing standards in each core subject area by 25% or more. Because we cannot assess what we do not teach, this also kickstarted the process of redesigning and *improving* ILEARN.

By amending Indiana Code to allow for multiple testing windows, we would become the 13th state to utilize a through-year assessment, which will include three checkpoints (not part of accountability) and a shortened summative assessment. So far, over 480 schools have already *opted in* to pilot the ILEARN checkpoints in ELA and math during the 2024-2025 school year!

### Rethinking high school

Last year, we launched a *collaborative* and *comprehensive* effort to rethink high school in Indiana ensuring the four years are as valuable as possible for our students. IDOE is statutorily required to develop **new diploma requirements** in collaboration with the State Board of Education (SBOE) by December 2024. By sunseting Indiana's current graduation requirements as of October 1, 2028, this will provide a clean slate for IDOE and SBOE to rulemake for the new diploma and provide the increased flexibility needed to tackle this important work *and* be a national leader in this space.

Again, thank you for your continued feedback to ensure the future of Indiana's diplomas include more flexibility, personalization opportunities based on each student's unique path, and the ability for schools to make room for work-based learning and credentials of value when right for the student.

### Helping more students gain digital literacy skills

Technology is advancing at a rapid pace. In order to prepare our students to meet the demands of Indiana's future economy, increasing the amount of students participating in computer science courses is essential. This legislation would require a computer science course for high school graduation beginning in 2029. Currently, 91% of public Indiana high schools offer a foundational computer science course, yet only 7% of Indiana high school students are currently enrolled in one of these courses.

By requiring all students to take computer science to earn a high school diploma, we will close the gap between the number of schools *offering* computer science and the number of students *taking* a computer science course, thus helping more students to gain key digital literacy skills. We are seeking implementation flexibility that may allow a student to complete this computer science requirement as early as 8th grade and into high school.

### Overall session topics

In addition to the legislation outlined above, there will no doubt be a number of bills filed this session that impact K-12 education. From efforts to help reduce chronic absenteeism to limiting cell phones in classrooms, we will be following it all and will continue to remain laser-focused on finding the solutions needed to make sure all Indiana students have the best possible opportunities in their future...and that our schools are best set up for success.

As we prepare to honor Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. on Monday, I am once again reminded of one of his famous quotes (and one of my favorites!), "If you can't fly, then run. If you can't run, then walk. If you can't walk, then crawl, but by all means, keep moving." These are words we will continue to live by in 2024...TOGETHER, LET'S KEEP MOVING FORWARD.

Thank you for all that you do for our students and keep up the good work!



## Office of Accountability

### REMINDER: Non-Public Schools Interested in Applying for the National Blue Ribbon Award

Assessment percentiles that can be used to assist non-public schools in the application process for the 2024 Blue Ribbon awards are available in the School Accountability and Accreditation Moodle Community (Awards > [Blue Ribbon](#)), using enrollment key "**AccountabilityCommunity**." The Blue Ribbon award application process for non-public schools is administered through the [Council for American Private Education \(CAPE\)](#), and the application deadline is today, Friday, January 12.

## Office of Student Assessment

### NEW: WIDA ACCESS Testing Window Opens Tuesday, January 16

The WIDA ACCESS testing window is open from Tuesday, January 16, through Friday, March 1. The window is approximately seven weeks long to ensure corporations and schools have ample time to assess 100% of identified English learners (ELs), as federally required. Contact IDOE's [Office of Student Assessment](#) with additional questions.

### **NEW: IREAD-3 Resources Now Available**

Schools can utilize the updated [IREAD-3 FAQ resource](#), which can be found on IDOE's [IREAD-3 webpage](#). The updated [2023-2024 IREAD-3 TAM](#) is also available on the Indiana Assessment Portal. This document provides an overview of a Test Administrator's (TA's) roles and responsibilities before, during, and after testing. All TAs should review this TAM prior to administering practice or operational assessments for IREAD-3. Starting in the 2023-2024 school year, the IREAD-3 TAM does not contain any operational scripts, including the Secure Segment 1 Script. The IREAD-3 Secure Segment 1 Script, previously delivered via the Secure File Center, is now only necessary for paper-and-pencil testers and will now be delivered with paper-and-pencil material orders. Contact IDOE's [Office of Student Assessment](#) or the [Indiana Assessment Help Desk](#) with any questions.

### **NEW: ILEARN Released Items Repository (RIR) Refresh**

Newly-released items for ILEARN 3-8 English/language arts, mathematics, and social studies will be available in the [RIR](#) on Wednesday, January 17. Students may access the RIR via the [Indiana Assessment Portal](#) to review past and new test items. Refer to the [RIR Scoring Guides webpage](#) and the [RIR Quick Guide](#) for additional information. Contact the [Indiana Assessment Help Desk](#) with any questions.

### **UPDATED: ILEARN Checkpoints Pilot Webinar Recording & Upcoming Sessions**

Join IDOE for two additional ILEARN Checkpoints Pilot opportunity question and answer (Q&A) webinars. Log in or create a free Indiana Learning Lab account to view [the recording of this live session](#). Register to attend upcoming sessions [here](#).

- Thursday, January 18, from 2 to 3 p.m. ET
- Friday, January 19, from 9 to 10 a.m. ET

Contact IDOE's [Office of Student Assessment](#) with any questions.

### **REMINDER: ILEARN Checkpoint Pilot Opt-In Opportunity Now Available**

IDOE invites schools to opt in to the ILEARN Checkpoints Pilot for the 2024-2025 school year. Schools can sign up to pilot the three checkpoints included in the ILEARN through-year design, but will still participate in the same statewide summative assessment. Refer to the following resources for an overview of the opportunity, reasons for participating, and how to sign up. IDOE will host three [live Q&A sessions](#) in January to answer questions over the pilot.

- [ILEARN Checkpoint Pilot Opt-In Opportunity Overview](#)
- [ILEARN Checkpoint Pilot Live Frequently Asked Questions \(FAQs\)](#)
- [ILEARN Checkpoint Pilot Data Overview](#)

Contact IDOE's [Office of Student Assessment](#) with any questions.

### **REMINDER: Apply for the ILEARN U.S. Government Standards/Cut Score Confirmation Committee**

IDOE invites current teachers, instructional coaches, and curriculum leaders with expertise in required content and skills for the high school U.S. Government course to apply for the [ILEARN U.S. Government Standards/Cut Score Confirmation Committee](#). This committee will convene virtually on Thursday, February 22, to review the current cut scores for the ILEARN U.S. Government End-of-Course Assessment (ECA) to ensure alignment to the 2023 Future-Focused Indiana Academic Standards. Committee participants will receive a \$160 honorarium and Professional Growth Plan (PGP) points for their participation. IDOE will follow up with selected participants. Apply [here](#) by Monday, February 5. Contact IDOE's [Office of Student Assessment](#) with any questions.

Office of Educator Talent

### **NEW: Educator Supply and Demand Marketplace Webinar Series**

Learn more about the free offerings of the educator supply and demand marketplace in this webinar series. The webinar will provide an overview of posting jobs, look at the complete Applicant Tracking System, highlight the Indiana Educator Supply and Demand Marketplace, and answer any questions. For more information, contact [Rebecca Estes](#).

- [Thursday, January 25, at 2 p.m. ET](#)
- [Tuesday, January 30, at noon ET](#)
- [Thursday, February 8, at 3 p.m. ET](#)
- [Tuesday, February 20, at 1:30 p.m. ET](#)

### **NEW: Indiana Teacher of the Year Speaker Request**

The Office of Educator Talent invites you to request the Indiana Teacher of the Year to be a guest speaker at your next event. Take advantage of the opportunity to help celebrate teaching and uplift the profession. Requests may be submitted [here](#). Contact [intoy@doe.in.gov](mailto:intoy@doe.in.gov) for more information about the Indiana Teacher of the Year program.

### **REMINDER: Indiana STEM Educator Expansion Program (I-STEM) Registration Now Available**

IDOE is pleased to announce a new partnership with Educational Service Centers (ESCs) of Indiana to strengthen Indiana's STEM educator pipeline. The I-STEM partnership provides support for both currently licensed teachers in non-STEM areas, and prospective teachers who are not licensed and hold a bachelor's degree, to become licensed to teach in a STEM content area. The IDOE has identified eligible STEM content areas as life science, chemistry, earth/space science, physics, physical science, computer science, technology education, and mathematics. Click [here](#) for more information and to register. Contact IDOE's [Office of Educator Talent](#) with any questions.

### **REMINDER: Strasbourg Cultural Exchange Opportunities**

High school educators interested in learning more about opportunities to partner with Strasbourg schools through linguistic and cultural exchange programs can complete this [form](#) to receive more information about the specific opportunities available and how to get connected. Contact IDOE's [Office of Educator Talent](#) with any questions.

## Office of Information Technology

### **NEW: E-Rate Match for Fiber Construction Now Available**

IDOE is once again participating in the E-Rate Match Program for special fiber construction projects. Available to any Indiana public school for fiscal year (FY) 2024 (July 1, 2024, to June 30, 2025), the program increases the discount rate for special construction charges for high-speed broadband that meets the FCC's long-term connectivity targets up to an additional 10% to match the state funding on a one-to-one dollar basis. Full application details are available [here](#). Contact [Brad Hagg](#) with any questions.

### **NEW: Additional Enhancements Coming Soon to Indiana GPS**

IDOE is preparing to launch a new round of enhancements to Indiana GPS and also refresh the data to include 2023. These updates will include a map feature, allowing users to search for schools by zip code, address, or city, and to filter by performance indicator, as well as a "favorite" feature, allowing users to compare selected schools based on the performance indicators that matter most to them. As we have done previously, schools will have access to an embargoed pre-release in advance of the public launch. Superintendents and principals will receive a direct email next Friday, January 19, with additional instructions to access the embargoed pre-release. Contact [indianagps@doe.in.gov](mailto:indianagps@doe.in.gov) with any questions.

## Office of School Building Physical Security and Safety

### **NEW: School Safety Planning**

Earlier this week, several schools across the state received an email message threatening the use of explosive devices that had allegedly been planted on various school campuses. While no suspicious or explosive devices were found in any of our schools, this incident is an important reminder to review your school safety plans and ensure you are meeting regularly with local law enforcement and public safety officials to prepare in advance for any and all safety incidents. Prior communication and collaboration on your safety plan will help to ensure plans are followed in times of crisis and strengthen your response/recovery. To support this proactive planning, all certified school safety specialists have access to training materials, resources, and templates through the Indiana School Safety Specialist Academy. Contact IDOE's [Office of School Building Physical Security and Safety](#) with any questions.

### **REMINDER: 2024 Eclipse Guidance**

As was shared in a [memo](#) on October 13, 2023, schools across Indiana will experience the eclipse differently, depending on their geographic location, with portions of central and southern Indiana in the path of totality. Any determinations regarding instruction on the day of the eclipse will be a local decision, and local planning should be occurring now. Some schools will be in-person and holding special events this day, others will have virtual learning, and others have already extended spring break so they are not in session on this day. As a reminder, per Indiana Code (IC) 20 -24.2-4-2, schools are required to meet a [minimum instructional time threshold](#), and waivers will not be granted due to the eclipse.

## Office of School Finance

### **NEW: January Tuition Support Payment**

Please read this [memo](#) regarding the January Tuition Support payment. Additional information regarding the Academic Performance Grant can be found [here](#). Contact IDOE's [Office of School Finance](#) with any

questions.

### **NEW: Summer School Estimates**

The window to submit the Estimated Cost Report for Summer School 2024 will open on Thursday, February 1. Please read this [memo](#) for information regarding eligible courses, important dates, and financial provisions. Detailed information about the summer school programs and how to report is included in this [presentation](#). Contact [Teresa Hemmerle](#) or [Alex Waite](#) with any questions.

### **REMINDER: Form 9 Financial Reporting for January to June 2024**

Beginning in January 2024, the Chart of Accounts will be modified to streamline the transfer reports completed in step four of Form 9 data submissions. Instead of using accounts 60100 and 5200 to indicate every fund transfer, school corporations and charter schools will indicate the funds involved in the transfer by using expenditure and receipt accounts specific to the fund transfers. Please read this [memo](#) regarding the changes to fund transfer account numbers. Contact IDOE's [Office of School Finance](#) with any questions.

### **REMINDER: Form 9 Financial Reporting for July to December 2023**

The deadline to submit Form 9 financial data for July to December 2023 is Wednesday, January 31. The Form 9 application, which includes a link to the financial transparency submission page, can be accessed via the LINK Portal. Once in the portal, the financial administrator will navigate to the "Form 9 Financial Data" tile. Guidance on the submission process can be found in the Public Finance Community in [Moodle](#). Contact [form9@doe.in.gov](mailto:form9@doe.in.gov) with any questions.

## Office of School Support & Transformation

### **REMINDER: Annual 1003 Flexibility Waivers**

IDOE's Office of School Support and Transformation is now [accepting applications](#) for 1003 flexibility waivers. Flexibility through waivers is offered to help support schools in their design efforts to improve student performance and outcomes, help to improve efficiency of school operations, and to help promote innovative educational approaches to student learning. Interested officials can read more about the opportunity in this [memo](#) and [Flexibility Guide for Indiana's K-12 Schools](#). Applications are now open and will be accepted on a rolling basis through Friday, April 5. Contact [Georgia Watson](#) with any questions.

## Office of Student Pathways and Opportunities

### **REMINDER: 2023-2024 Homeless Children & Youth Data Report**

The Student Pathways & Opportunities McKinney-Vento team forwarded the 2023-2024 LEA Homeless Children & Youth Data Report to all Indiana school districts on Tuesday, January 2. This data report will be used by IDOE to collect and assess Indiana's homeless children and youth data for the first semester of the 2023-2024 school year. The data report is separate from the homeless children and youth data school districts are required to submit to Data Exchange by June 30 annually. The 2023-2024 LEA Homeless Children and Youth Data report is due on Tuesday, January 16. Contact the [McKinney-Vento Team](#) with any questions.

## Office of Student, School and Family Engagement

### **NEW: Sources of Strength's High School Peer Leader/Adult Advisor Suicide Prevention Program**

IDOE, through funding provided by the Substance Abuse Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), has contracted with Sources of Strength (SoS) to provide two high schools the opportunity to be fully funded for three years to implement SoS's widely recognized, evidence-based suicide prevention program. [Applications](#) are due by midnight on Friday, January 19. Selected schools will be announced on Friday, January 26, through this newsletter. Because this is a federal grant, no stipends are allowed for this opportunity. Your point of contact for the program will work directly with SoS to schedule training, distribute curriculum, consult and all other activities. SoS will bill the state directly for all services, per the contract. Contact [Jason Murrey](#) with any questions.

## Offices of Teaching and Learning, Digital Learning, and Kindergarten Readiness

### **NEW: Public Comment for Draft Content Connectors Opens Monday, January 22**

Pursuant to Indiana Code (IC) 20-31-3-1 requiring the streamlining and prioritization of the Indiana Academic Standards, IDOE convened committees of general and special educators to review proposed revisions to Indiana's alternate standards, known as Content Connectors. New and updated Content Connectors for five content areas (English/language arts, mathematics, science, social studies, and integrated STEM) will be available for review during a three-week public comment window from Monday, January 22, through Friday, February 9. Contact IDOE's [Office of Teaching and Learning](#) with any questions.

## **NEW: 2023 English/Language Arts (ELA) Vertical Articulation Guides Now Available**

Updated ELA Vertical Articulation guides are now available in the corresponding [resource collection](#) in the Indiana Learning Lab. Contact IDOE's [Office of Teaching and Learning](#) with any questions.

## **NEW: Science of Reading Experts Explain Series Continues Thursday, January 18**

Join IDOE and The Reading League Indiana from noon to 1 p.m. ET on Thursday, January 18, for *The Hidden Potential of the Science of Reading: Screening and Instructing Language in Early Childhood* with Dr. Nell Thompson. The [Experts Explain Series](#) runs throughout the 2023-2024 school year and features nationally-renowned reading experts to support schools in shifting instruction toward evidence-based reading and writing instruction. Register for the sessions [here](#) and view previous sessions on-demand in the [Indiana Learning Lab](#). Contact IDOE's [Literacy Center](#) with any questions

## **NEW: January Professional Development (PD) with IDOE Continues Wednesday, January 17**

2024 PD with IDOE continues Wednesday, January 17, at 4 p.m. ET with *SAT State-Allowed Accommodations (SAAs)* presented by IDOE Assessment Specialists, Alyson Traficante and Sydney Hunger. View a full list of January sessions [here](#). To register for workshops, or view on demand sessions, create a free Indiana 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.

## **NEW: Register Now for Digital Learning Coach Camp on Friday, March 8**

Digital learning coaches are invited to attend the Digital Learning Coach Camp on Friday, March 8, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. ET at Central Indiana Educational Service Center (CIESC). This professional learning opportunity, specifically for those in educational technology coaching and leadership roles, is a round-table style, one-day conference. This event is free, and participants will break at lunch. Register for this opportunity [here](#). Contact IDOE's [Office of Digital Learning](#) with any questions.

## **NEW: Registration Open - Early Learning Standards Workshop**

Join the Future-Focused Learning Series for the Early Learning workshop on Thursday, March 7, to explore the new 2023 Early Learning Standards. This full-day workshop will include hands-on activities demonstrating the standards in action and a chance to talk with other early childhood providers. [Register for free](#). Contact IDOE's [Office of Kindergarten Readiness](#) with additional questions.

## **UPDATE: Early Literacy Achievement Grant Guidance**

IDOE's Early Literacy Achievement Grant was established to reward schools and teachers for improving students' foundational reading skills. In response to questions from the field, we have since [updated guidance](#) for public school corporations and charter schools. Contact IDOE's [Literacy Center](#) with any additional questions.

## **REMINDER: Showing Up Matters - Learn How Attendance and Healthy Practices Impact Future School Readiness**

Join IDOE in the Indiana Learning Lab for sessions on [why attendance matters](#) on Wednesday, January 24, and [keeping children healthy during the winter months](#) on Wednesday, January 31, geared toward educators and families. Both sessions will be held from noon to 12:30 p.m. ET in the [Indiana Learning Lab](#). Contact IDOE's [Office of Kindergarten Readiness](#) with additional questions.

## **REMINDER: Future-Focused Indiana Early Learning Standards Course Now Available**

The new [2023 Future-Focused Indiana Early Learning Standards Course](#) connects foundational understandings of leadership, teaching, and assessment with developmentally-appropriate, intentional implementation of the eight domains of early learning in early care and education environments. Playful learning experiences are supported through authentic assessment, purposeful planning, and increased contextual relevance. This allows for individualization while preparing a child for kindergarten. The course is free and available in the [Indiana Learning Lab](#). Professional Growth Plan (PGP) points are available upon completion. Contact IDOE's [Office of Kindergarten Readiness](#) with any questions.

## **REMINDER: Apply for Cohort 3 of the Indiana Literacy Cadre**

Indiana schools are invited to apply for Cohort 3 of the [Indiana Literacy Cadre](#), a collaborative effort designed to develop and implement key professional development for K-3 educators to support literacy and reading instruction aligned with science of reading practices. Learn more about the benefits of



participating [here](#). Submit the [interest form](#) for additional information on how to join this initiative. Contact IDOE's [Literacy Center](#) or the [Indiana Literacy Cadre](#) with any questions.

### **REMINDER: Digital Learning Day Celebration on Thursday, February 15**

IDOE's Office of Digital Learning is celebrating Digital Learning Day with the third annual Digital Learning Day Double Down at 4 p.m. ET on Thursday, February 15. This session will feature teachers from across the state who use educational technology to engage, extend, enable, and elevate student learning. Any teachers interested in sharing can apply [via this form](#). Contact IDOE's [Office of Digital Learning](#) with any questions.

## Office of Title Grants and Support

### **UPDATED: Save the Date - 21st Century Community Learning Centers (CLCC) to Launch New Request for Proposals (RFP)**

Cohort 12 of the 21st Century Community Learning Centers grant (Title IV part b) will be released on Monday, February 26. This competitive grant provides funding for LEAs, including non-public and charter schools, and community-based organizations to run safe and accessible out-of-school time programming that promotes academic, social, and behavioral growth. To learn more about the 21st Century Community Learning Centers grant and access the RFP once it launches, visit the [website](#) or contact the [Out-of-School Time Program](#).

## News From Our Partners

### **NEW: IEP Technical Assistance (TA) Center 2024 Training Catalog Now Available**

The IEP TA Center [2024 Training Catalog](#) is now available! The training schedule offers a robust listing of workshops delivered in a variety of formats and locations presented at no cost to Indiana educators. View the [Catalog Workshops webpage](#) for upcoming opportunities. Contact the [IEP TA Center](#) with any questions.

### **REMINDER FROM THE PATINS PROJECT: Basics of Assistive Technology (AT) Team Development and Evaluations**

Join the PATINS Project on Thursday, January 18, at 3:30 p.m. ET to learn about how AT teams can benefit your school. This session is intended for corporation/school staff who would like to develop or update their AT team. Each team will find direction in producing policies, procedures, and forms that fit their unique needs. [Register](#) in advance for this session and visit the [PATINS Project website](#) for more information. Contact the [PATINS Project](#) with questions.

### **REMINDER FROM THE INDIANA COMMISSION FOR HIGHER EDUCATION (CHE): Next Generation Hoosier Educators Scholarship Application is Now Available**

CHE is accepting applications for the [Next Generation Hoosier Educators Scholarship](#) and the Next Generation Hoosier Minority Educators Scholarship. High-achieving high school and college students who plan to teach in Indiana for at least five years can receive up to \$10,000 per year (\$40,000 total). Current college students who apply must be able to use the scholarship for two full academic years. Apply through [ScholarTrack](#) by Wednesday, January 31. Please contact the [CHE](#) for more information.

### **REMINDER FROM THE INDIANA DEPARTMENT OF WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT (DWD): Learn more about Jobs for America's Graduates (JAG)**

JAG Indiana is seeking schools to add 50 new programs this fall as part of [Governor Holcomb's plan](#) to double the workforce program across Indiana. The expansion plan invites middle school, high school and alternative education/credit recovery programs to be part of JAG, and the 40,000 Hoosier youths it has served since its inception in 2006. Ready to become a JAG school or interested in learning more? [Complete this survey](#) or email the [JAG Indiana team](#).

### **REMINDER FROM THE INDIANA SCHOOL COUNSELOR ASSOCIATION (ISCA): 2025 ISCA Awards Nominations**

Nominations for the 2025 ISCA Awards are now open through Sunday, June 2. Recognize exemplary school administrators, school counselors, and school support staff by nominating them for a 2025 ISCA Award. The nomination process is modeled after the ASCA national award model. Winners will be selected by the ISCA Awards committee and will be invited to attend the ISCA Fall Conference to receive their award. One school administrator and one support staff member will be selected as the 2025 Indiana state winners. The 2025 School Counselor of the Year winners will be selected by level (elementary, middle, and high). More information about criteria for the annual ISCA Awards can be found [here](#). Contact the ISCA Awards Chair [Timothy Adams](#) with questions.

## REMINDER FROM TEACH INDY: Register Now for the 2024 Teach Indy Educators Conference

The 2024 Teach Indy Educators Conference will be at the Ivy Tech Community College Culinary and Conference Center on Saturday, March 2. Join us to enhance teachers' expertise, share best practices, amplify the educator's voice, and seize the opportunity to learn and grow. All current and aspiring educators are welcome. Register [here](#) and contact [Teach Indy](#) with questions.

## REMINDER FROM MARTIN UNIVERSITY: Martin University College Prep Rally

Martin University is hosting a College Prep Rally on Saturday, January 27, from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Martin University will provide help to complete all the necessary steps to prepare for college including on-site admissions, a financial literacy and college prep panel discussion, and a half-time presentation featuring Brave Majorette and Drumline. This event is geared towards potential students as well as non-traditional students thinking about coming back and finishing their degrees. Visit the Martin University [website](#) for more information.

## REMINDER FROM WORK AND LEARN INDIANA: The 2024 Indiana Work-Based Learning Conference

The [Indiana Work-Based Learning Conference](#), featuring the 18th Annual Impact Awards, will be on February 22 at the Embassy Suites in Noblesville. The event is a convening of best practices and sharing of ideas toward growth and partnership within workforce and education. Register [here](#) or contact [Sally Saydshoev](#) for more information.

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### Weekly Updates

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

### Stay Informed

Did you miss a message? View previous weekly emails [here](#). Want daily updates? Be sure to follow the Department on Twitter and Facebook.

The Weekly Update from the Indiana Department of Education is created by the Office of Communications, and is distributed every Friday morning.

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