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INDIANA DEPARTMENT of EDUCATION

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An Update From the Indiana Department of Education for November 1,

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Indiana Department of Education sent this bulletin at 11/01/2024 07:00 AM EDT



A Message from Dr. Katie Jenner

Over the past year, in nearly every conversation with educators, parents, or business and community leaders, the topic of chronic absenteeism inevitably comes up, and for good reason...student attendance is directly correlated to academic outcomes. Simply put, when students come to school, educators can provide the learning support, and outcomes improve...so it starts with students being in school every day.

As educators and school leaders, we have absolutely been working together to find solutions. Even more so this school year, when driving around the state, I have passed many local school marquees and have wanted to turn around to get a picture of the messaging to parents and community members about the importance of attendance. A recent example was as simple as: "Thank you, parents, for getting your students to school every day and on time." I have also seen numerous letters that school leaders have



shared with parents on this same topic, as well as heard from a number of you on community efforts to improve student attendance...and it is making a difference!

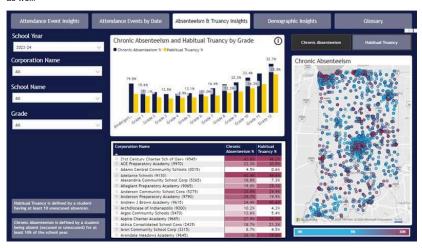
Across the country, we saw chronic absenteeism rates increase dramatically following the pandemic. This September, we shared the state's latest chronic absenteeism data, which shows that while Indiana is better than the national average and our chronic absenteeism is moving in the right direction, there is more work to do. At our height after the pandemic, we had 21.1% of students chronically absent (missing at least 10% of school days). Since then, we have improved 3.3 percentage points, with 17.8% of students chronically absent during the 2023-2024 school year. **Quick math on chronic absenteeism: 180 school days x 10% = 18 school days...or nearly one month of school.

Other key takeaways from the data include:

- Statewide, chronic absenteeism **improved 1.4 percentage points** from 2023 to 2024. Data show that chronic absenteeism rates for student populations who experienced the greatest academic impacts following the pandemic are improving more quickly than the state overall.
 - Black students Improved 2.2 percentage points
 - Hispanic students Improved 2.2 percentage points
 - Students receiving free/reduced price meals Improved 2.2 percentage points
 - English learners Improved 2.0 percentage points
- The number of schools with fewer than 10% of students who are chronically absent improved from 580 schools in 2023 to 686 schools in 2024, yet 74 schools have more than 50% of students who are chronically absent.
- Rates of chronic absenteeism continue to be the highest at the high school level, specifically
 in grades 11 and 12. Nearly one in three Hoosier students are chronically absent during their
 senior year.
 - This underscores the urgency behind our ongoing work to rethink the high school experience and ensure more parents and students see the value in education.
- Students who are chronically absent are *significantly less likely* to **read by third grade**, master **key ELA and math skills**, or be **college-ready**.

Again, while we are seeing improvement in Indiana, we must continue to link arms to do everything we can to ensure our students are coming to school. To support this work statewide, rather than just having

an old-fashioned spreadsheet, which is what we've always had, we now have a transparent attendance dashboard that will make it easier to see and interact with the local and state data. Since this must be a community effort, this allows all stakeholders (educators + parents/families + community partners) to see the same data and encourages collaborative solutions. Schools have had access to this embargoed dashboard since late summer, and we're excited that the <u>public version of the dashboard</u> is now available as well!



This new tool displays attendance data at the grade-, school- and corporation-level and shows different types of absences (excused or unexcused), as well as chronic absenteeism rates. Additionally, users can view longitudinal data that can be disaggregated by student population.



Having this data at our fingertips will help both schools, as well as community partners to:

- Analyze student attendance data over time
- Identify any trends/patterns in the data or areas where data collection could be improved
- Work with a variety of stakeholders to identify root causes of poor attendance
- Review attendance policies and utilize data to inform short- and long-term policy decisions
- Set goals for improved attendance and/or data collection
- · Evaluate the impact of current efforts to improve attendance

If you have not already, I encourage you to take a moment to check out the <u>Attendance Insights data</u>. Again, we are moving in the right direction because of your efforts and collaborative solutions, so thank YOU! Let's keep it going!

And, as always, thank you for all that you do for Indiana students!

Office of Communications and External Affairs

REMINDER: Nominations Open for the U.S. Presidential Scholars Program

The U.S. Presidential Scholars Program recognizes and honors outstanding high school seniors and encourages high attainment among all students. This memo outlines the required qualifications and nomination process. The rubrics for general and career and technical education (CTE) applications are now available here. Nominations must be submitted by 11:59 p.m. on Friday, November 8, in order to be considered. Contact IDOE's Communications Team with any questions.

REMINDER: Student Learning Recover Grant - Expanding What Works

Inspired by the successful 1008 Student Learning Recovery model out of Indianapolis, Indy Summer Learning Labs, IDOE is excited to once again offer grants to implement a high-quality 2025 summer learning program. The program is designed to award a single grant to a lead regional organization/entity which then partners with community organizations, local nonprofits, school corporations, public charter schools, non-public schools, and others to deploy a successful, multi-site, summer math and English/language arts learning program aligned to the core design principles of the Indy Summer Learning Lab program. Eligible regional grantees include:

- · Community-based organizations,
- · Education service centers.
- · Non-profit community organizations, and
- · Municipal entities.

The application for summer 2025 is open through Friday, November 22.

Office of Educator Talent and the Literacy Center

REMINDER: Recommendations Open for Distinguished Educators Recognition

IDOE is looking for confidential recommendations of teachers representing the very best educators in Indiana. These emerging leaders must have between five and 15 years of experience, demonstrate leadership beyond the classroom, and positively impact school culture and student achievement. Superintendents and principals may submit recommendations here. Recommendations must be submitted by Saturday, November 30. Contact IDOE's Office of Educator Talent with any questions.

REMINDER: Praxis 5205 Test At-Home Guidance

Educators using test vouchers (or any payment method) who want to use a school-owned computer to take at-home Praxis exams should review and confirm that the computer equipment and environment meet the test-at-home requirements and that network security settings will not block the test platform software. Please review the <u>At-Home Testing Requirements</u> to ensure the testing session will not be invalidated, thus requiring payment for another exam session. For support with Praxis, contact <u>ETS Praxis Customer Support</u> or 1-800-772-9476.

REMINDER: Additional Opportunities to Recognize Indiana Educators

Throughout the year, numerous opportunities arise nationwide to acknowledge the incredible work of Indiana educators. IDOE's Office of Educator Talent has developed this document, which will be updated periodically with external opportunities to recognize educators. To submit an educator recognition opportunity not listed, contact IDOE's Office of Educator Talent.

REMINDER: Early Literacy Endorsement Professional Development (PD) & Praxis Voucher Request

Educators who hold an Indiana professional educator license can register <u>here</u> for the flexible <u>Keys to Literacy options</u>. Educators planning to earn Indiana's Early Literacy Endorsement can follow the process outlined <u>here</u> to submit a request to verify completion of the approved 80 hours and request a Praxis voucher, if needed. Contact IDOE's <u>Literacy Center</u> with questions.

Office of Information Technology

NEW: Public Attendance Insights Dashboard

A public version of the Attendance Insights Dashboard is now available. This report joins other public reports on the EdData platform. The public version of the Attendance Insights dashboard allows comparison of attendance patterns between schools and against state data. The data will display for the 2020-2021, 2021-2022, 2022-2023, and 2023-2024 school years. Contact IDOE's Office of Information Technology with additional questions.

NEW: Key Contact Display in LINK Portal

Key contacts, including the roles of superintendent, financial contact, special education director, principal, Data Exchange contact, etc., are now displayed within the LINK Portal for all users to view. After logging into the LINK Portal, click on the "Contacts" tab at the top of the screen to view. Search for your organization and then click on the "Full Directory" link. If you are a Key Contact for your organization, please review this information for accuracy. Information for how these data are provided to IDOE is included below.

REMINDER: Designation of Key Contacts

Security coordinators for all traditional public, charter, and accredited non-public schools are responsible for ensuring their organization's key contacts for the 2024-2025 school year are set. Key contacts,

including the roles of Superintendent, Financial Contact, Special Education Director, Principal, Data Exchange Contact, etc., are needed for the 2024-2025 school year even if those contacts were provided last school year.

For school corporations that have an Ed-Fi student information system (SIS), key contacts and other staff role assignments should be entered and managed in the local SIS, and then provided to DEX/LINK for the new school year. However, all three options below are available:

- 1. Provide staff classifications in the local SIS per the vendor's instructions,
- 2. Add a staff type manually for the 2024-2025 school year via the Security Portal, or
- Upload templates 008_StaffAssociation_StaffEdOrgAssignmentAssociation and 009 StaffOrganizationContactAssociation into DEX.

Schools utilizing options two and three may cause overriding or loss of data. Schools should connect with their SIS vendor to better understand how to avoid data loss when providing data via multiple methods. IDOE is now recognizing only the 2024-2025 school year assignments. Security coordinator instructions can be found <a href="https://example.com/https://examp

Office of School Finance

REMINDER: Common School Loans

To assist school corporations and charter schools that have an immediate need to purchase technology and related equipment, the Office of School Finance will accept applications for construction and technology loans from school corporations and school corporation career and technical education schools through Friday, November 8. Petitions must be received by the Office of School Finance by Friday, November 8, to be considered. Blank applications can be found in the public school finance community in Moodle under Common School Funds > Fall. Contact CommonSchoolFund@doe.in.gov with any questions.

REMINDER: Membership Conflict Petition Process

Please read this memo regarding the membership conflict petition process. Friday, November 8, 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 Student Pathways and Opportunities

REMINDER: 3E Grant Reimbursement Requests

As of Monday, September 30, all 3E Grant funds should have been encumbered, and grantees must submit final reimbursement requests to IDOE by Sunday, December 15. Reimbursement forms should be completed, signed by the preparer, and submitted to IDOE via <a href="mailto:e

REMINDER: Graduation Pathways Office Hours

Office hours are open to any educators with questions regarding current Graduation Pathways requirements. The next Office Hours will take place on Thursday, November 7, from 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. ET. Information on dates, times, and links to join can be found here. Contact IDOE's Opportunities with any questions.

Office of Special Education, English Learning, and Migrant Education

NEW: Pre-Employment Transition Services (Pre-ETS) Training and Technical Assistance Community of Practice

The Division of Disability and Rehabilitative Services (DDRS) with the Bureau of Rehabilitation Services (BRS) has contracted with Public Consulting Group (PCG) to strengthen Pre-ETS across the state. One part of this multifaceted project is to implement Communities of Practice (CoP), meetings where various Pre-ETS stakeholders share challenges and successes and learn best practices and effective strategies. This CoP is titled *Training and Technical Assistance* and focuses on topics that stakeholders identified during a Pre-ETS Needs Assessment from PCG. The CoP will consist of four quarterly topics of six meetings for each topic. The introductory session will take place on Monday, November 25, from 3 to 4 p.m. ET. More information and session registration can be found <a href="https://example.com/here-en/mile

NEW: Indiana Health Coverage Programs (IHCP) January Reimbursement Updates

Effective immediately for dates of service (DOS) on or after January 1, 2025, IHCP-enrolled school corporations can bill new rates for school-based services. See this bulletin for details. Questions about

billing and reimbursement should be directed to Gainwell Technologies customer assistance at 800-457-4584 or your regional <u>Provider Relations consultant</u>.

NEW: Sign Up for Medicaid News

IHCP bulletins notify Medicaid providers of new and revised policies, program changes, and information about special initiatives. To receive email notices of IHCP publications, sign up here. When registering your email, check the category on the drop-down list to receive notices of Medicaid updates.

NEW: English Learner (EL) Exit Criteria - Additional Evidence Review Window Closed

IDOE released updated Exit Criteria for English Learners Guidance for the 2024-2025 school year, which allowed for eligible students to have additional evidence reviewed alongside WIDA ACCESS results to demonstrate proficiency and possibly exit EL status. The deadline to submit the Decision-Making Tools for students who were determined proficient via additional evidence has closed. All submissions have been assessed and contacts have been notified of the results of the IDOE review. The next additional evidence review window will occur after the 2025 WIDA ACCESS results are released later in the spring, and any eligible student not submitted and approved by IDOE will maintain their EL status through the current school year. Contact IDOE's Office of English Learning and Migrant Education with questions.

REMINDER: Monthly New EL Director PLC

Join the Professional Learning Community (PLC) for new directors of EL programs during the 2024-2025 school year. This is a place to network with colleagues, access timely program information, and bring questions. The next session of the school year will be Tuesday, November 12, at 9:30 a.m. ET. The meeting link and info can be found on the <u>EL PD Opportunities Calendar</u>. Contact IDOE's <u>Office of English Learning and Migrant Education</u> with questions.

REMINDER: Special Education Directors Symposium

The Directors Symposium has been formed so that special education directors and administrators can learn about special education policies and resources available to Indiana LEAs. The Symposium intends to support directors by providing timely and relevant information that guides them toward increased confidence in their roles and compliance in their corporation's reporting. Please register to receive updates regarding the Symposium, which will meet next on Tuesday, November 12, at 3 p.m. ET. This session will provide information about early childhood transitions and annual graduation data certifications. Contact IDOE's Office of Special Education with any questions.

REMINDER: New Special Education Teacher Office Hours

IDOE's Office of Special Education, Technical Assistance (TA) Team will hold office hours for new special education teachers from 4 to 5 p.m. ET on Thursdays once a month. These meetings will support teachers new to special education in navigating various topics with November's session sharing information on deafness, blindness, and deafblindness. The first half of the session will include a formal presentation on a relevant topic, and the last will be an open Q&A with an opportunity for teachers of record (TORs) to ask questions. Registration is not required; find the link to join here. Contact IDOE's Office of Special Education with any questions.

REMINDER: Behavior Grant

The Office of Special Education is offering a grant focused on behavior support for students with IEPs. Grant funds may be awarded to corporations, charter schools, and state schools to ensure safe learning environments that support academic achievement for students with IEPs. The grant application is now open and will close on Tuesday, December 31. Monthly office hours to provide support in the application process will take place on the following dates and times. Please click the links on each date to join the office hours.

- Wednesday, November 20, from noon to 1 p.m. ET
- Thursday, December 12, from 9 to 10 a.m. ET

Contact osebehaviorgrant@doe.in.gov with any questions.

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

NEW: High Ability Program Grant Final Report Now Available

The 2023-2024 (fiscal year 2024) High Ability Program Final Report is due Tuesday, December 31. All schools that received fiscal year 2024 high ability funds must complete this report via this <u>JotForm</u>. Please send any unused funds for fiscal year 2024 in the form of a check to:

Indiana Department of Education
Attn: Trent Gooding
Indiana Government Center North, 9th Floor

Contact IDOE's high ability team with any questions.

NEW: Green Ribbon Schools Call for Applications

Indiana's nomination window is now open for corporations and schools to apply for the U.S. Department of Education's Green Ribbon Schools (ED-GRS) federal sustainability recognition award. ED-GRS awardees are recognized at both state and national levels, are the subject of media attention, and reflect local sustainability efforts and achievements aligned with the three ED-GRS Pillars (i.e., reduced environmental impact and costs, improved health and wellness, and effective environmental and sustainability education). Join the 12 schools that have already been awarded in Indiana and receive recognition for your school's sustainability practices. Review the 2025 Green Ribbon Schools Memo for School Leaders and visit the U.S. Department of Education Green Ribbon Schools Webpage for more details. Corporations and schools wishing to nominate themselves for this award must submit the online application by Friday, December 6. Contact IDOE's Office of Teaching and Learning with any questions.

NEW: November Professional Development (PD) with IDOE

November PD with IDOE begins Wednesday, November 6, at 4 p.m. ET with *High Ability Identification for Underrepresented Populations*. View a full list of November sessions here. To register for workshops, or view on demand sessions, create a free 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: Digital Learning Parent and Family Support Grant Recipients

IDOE is excited to announce 39 recipients of the 2024-2025 Digital Learning Parent and Family Support Grant. This grant allows a school or corporation to design a plan to support parents and families with topics related to educational technology and blended/virtual learning environments. See this memo for a full list of grant recipients. Contact IDOE's Office of Digital Learning with any questions.

REMINDER: Artificial Intelligence (AI) Platforms in Indiana Series

Nine sessions from AI platforms being used in Indiana schools are <u>now available on demand</u> in the Indiana Learning Lab. Each featured platform was selected by at least one corporation during grant opportunities and met one or more of the iterations of IDOE's vendor requirements. Contact IDOE's <u>Office of Digital Learning</u> with any questions.

REMINDER: Early Childhood Education Registered Teacher Apprenticeship Information Sessions

Indiana recently announced an <u>Early Childhood Education Registered Teacher Apprenticeship</u>. Additional opportunities to join the program are available in January and fall of 2025. Join IDOE in the <u>Learning Lab</u> for informational sessions on apprenticeship funding on Monday, November 4, and stories from currently participating schools on Friday, November 8. The sessions will be held from 1 to 2 p.m. ET. Contact IDOE's <u>Office of Kindergarten Readiness</u> with any questions.

Office of Title Grants and Support

NEW: TitleCon 2025 Call for Propsals

The Title Grants and Support team is excited to announce Title Con 2025. The event will be held on April 16 and 17, 2025, in Plainfield. Title Con 2025 will bring together hundreds of Indiana educators and school personnel from across the state to learn and build stronger federal programs for student growth and achievement. Title Con seeks dynamic presentations on topics related to Title grants and federal funding that align with the theme of "Learning From Yesterday, Planning for Tomorrow." Please review the <u>call for proposal form</u> for more information. All submissions are due by Friday, December 13. Contact <u>Caitlin Laurino</u> with any questions.

NEW: Save the Date for TitleCon 2025

TitleCon 2025 will bring together hundreds of Indiana educators including superintendents, principals, program administrators, teachers, and fiscal representatives from local education agencies (LEA), charter schools, and non-public schools across the state. This two-day conference on April 16 and 27, 2025, will feature keynote speakers and several breakout sessions designed to provide schools with programmatic and fiscal guidance to advance federal education programs in their respective communities. This year will also feature a pre-conference on April 15, 2025, to provide additional learning opportunities regarding student groups and additional specialty programs. More information regarding registration, hotel block information, and specific conference details will be provided soon.

The Ed-Flex waiver for cohort two is now live. All LEAs with previously-approved waivers are required to reapply for the 2024-2025 school year here. Those applying for waiver two (i.e., paraprofessional qualification requirements) or waiver four (i.e., Title IV spending requirements), must submit the application by Friday, November 15. The application for waiver one (up to 25% carryover for FY 2024 to FY 2025) is due March 30, 2025. Review these frequently asked questions for more information on the Ed-Flex waiver process, and contact IDOE's Office of Title Grants and Support with additional questions.

REMINDER: Quarterly Meeting Schedule for 2024-2025 School Year

IDOE's Office of Title Grants and Support will continue hosting a meeting each quarter to provide updates regarding federal grants. The quarterly meetings will be hosted on Thursdays at 10 a.m. ET on the following dates:

- Thursday, December 5
- March 6, 2025
- May 8, 2025

Contact IDOE's Office of Title Grants and Support with any questions.

REMINDER: Liquidation and Final Expenditure Report (FER) Deadlines

The liquidation date for FFY2023/FY2024 Title I, FFY2021/FY2022 Title II, and 2021 ESSER III is Sunday, December 15, for reimbursement requests. FERs are due no later than Tuesday, December 31. Please send questions to IDOE's Office of Title Grants and Support.

REMINDER: Title I Comparability Reports

Title I Comparability Reports are due via the Title I App Center no later than Wednesday, October 30. Please send questions to IDOE's Office of Title Grants and Support.

News From Our Partners

NEW FROM COLLEGE BOARD: AP Career Kickstart Cybersecurity Pilot

Career Kickstart is a new AP program in development that's designed to accelerate high school students on their paths to in-demand careers. Career Kickstart's first pathway, Cybersecurity, consists of two courses (AP CK Cyber: Networking and AP CK Cyber: Security), and applications are now open for the 2025-2026 school year. You can learn more information at careerkickstart.org. Join College Board's Career Kickstart team for an Indiana-specific webinar on Wednesday, November 6, at 4 p.m. ET to learn more about AP Career Kickstart, how the program will benefit students, and steps your school(s) can take to participate in the 2025-2026 Cybersecurity pilot. Click here to register for the Wednesday, November 6, webinar. If you are unable to join the Indiana-specific webinar, you can also join the national webinar on Monday, November 4, at 7 p.m. ET by clicking here.

NEW FROM THE WABASH VALLEY EDUCATION CENTER (WVEC): Save the Date - Embracing the Magic of Early Learning Conference

Are you an Early Learning Educator for PreK through first grade? Join WVEC for the third annual Early Learning Conference with special guests Hilary Statum, founder of Pencils to Pigtails, and Dr. Sonia Cabell, author of Strive-for-Five Conversations on Thursday, December 12. Click here for additional details and registration. Contact Melissa Gill with any questions.

NEW FROM THE INDIANA COUNCIL OF TEACHERS OF ENGLISH (ICTE): Register to Attend the 2025 Spring Conference

The spring conference themed "For the Love of Literacy," invites educators, researchers, and literacy advocates to explore and celebrate the power of literacy in all its forms. This conference will feature dynamic presentations and workshops showcasing innovative strategies, research, and success stories aimed at fostering a lifelong love of reading and writing. Click here to submit a conference session proposal. Click here to register for this exciting event dedicated to empowering teachers and building vibrant literacy communities across Indiana. For more information please contact Nikki Garland.

NEW FROM SCHOOLHOUSE: Register for Upcoming Opportunities

Share free, virtual opportunities from Schoolhouse with students! All programs begin on Friday, November 8.

- SAT Bootcamp
- College Admissions Workshops
- · Algebra II Leaning Lab
- Pre-Calculus Math Learning Lab.

Program links and more information can be found <u>here</u>, and all program dates can be found on <u>this</u> <u>calendar</u>. Contact <u>Schoolhouse</u> with additional questions.

REMINDER FROM THE ADVANCED PLACEMENT TEACHER INVESTMENT PROGRAM (AP-TIP): Cohort 13 Applications Available

The <u>application to Cohort 13</u> of AP-TIP is now open. AP-TIP is a fully-funded, non-profit program of the university's Center for STEM Education and the Institute for Educational Initiatives that

- Engages math, science, and English program teachers in exemplary professional learning opportunities tailored to the specific needs of teachers of advanced coursework,
- · Provides personalized instructional coaching and mentoring for program teachers, and
- · Pays stipends to program teachers for participation in professional events.

Applications are due by Friday, December 20. Teachers and school leaders can learn more about AP-TIP here.

REMINDER FROM NEXTECH: CSforAll SCRIPT

Are you ready to create a computer science implementation plan for your district? CSforAll SCRIPT is the nationally recognized Strategic CSforALL Resource & Implementation Planning Tool (SCRIPT) to help districts prepare a custom strategic plan for the implementation of K-12 Computer Science education. Participating districts will leave the workshop with:

- 1. A vision statement for CS in your district, a strategic plan that outlines clear, actionable, goals for three months, six months, and one year.
- The CSforAll workshop sessions are grounded in best educational practices and the strategic planning process could be useful for other disciples as well.
- Connections with several community and industry regional partners that can support your CS education efforts.

The next opportunity will be on Monday, November 18, via zoom. Learn more about this opportunity here! Contact Nextech with any questions.

REMINDER FROM THE CENTRAL INDIANA CORPORATE PARTNERSHIP (CICP): See Yourself IN High School Summit

Join <u>CICP</u> and its five talent and industry sector initiatives for the <u>See Yourself IN High School Summit</u> on Thursday, November 21. Students will join us for a day of engaging panel discussions and hands-on demonstrations. This free event shines a light on Indiana companies, leaders, and young talent working in the state's fastest-growing industries. Questions may be directed to <u>Hali Mynatt</u>.



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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