# An Update From the Indiana Department of Education for December 20, 2024

Indiana Department of Education sent this bulletin at 12/20/2024 07:20 AM EST

**Indiana Department of Education**
Dr. Katie Jenner, Secretary of Education

## A Message from Dr. Katie Jenner

Today marks the beginning of winter break for many of our schools across the state. I hope that over the next few weeks, as you celebrate the holidays with family and friends, you are able to find some quiet moments for yourself to reflect on the past year and the meaning of this season.



I look forward to continuing to work together in the new year, and we will welcome you to 2025 with our next edition of the weekly newsletter on Friday, January 10. Until then, enjoy the holidays, and as always, thank you for all that you do!

### New Email Newsletter Provider Beginning in 2025

The state of Indiana will be transitioning its newsletters from GovDelivery to Salesforce Marketing Cloud effective January 1, 2025. Current subscribers to IDOE newsletters, including Dr. Jenner's Weekly Update, *do not need to take any action*, as subscribers will carry over to the new platform. For new users or future sign-ups, a new subscription page will be available once the transition is complete. We look forward to continuing to share important updates and information in the future via Marketing Cloud. Contact IDOE's Office of Communications with additional questions.

## High School Diploma Implementation

### NEW: Feedback Requested on New Diploma Course Eligibility

As Indiana prepares to implement the new diploma requirements, stakeholders are invited to provide feedback on course eligibility determinations for various credits in English, math, STEM, and world perspectives. View the draft course eligibility memo here and provide your feedback here. Contact Michelle Clarke with any questions.

## Office of Accountability

### NEW: 2024-2025 Petition to Seek Performance-Based Accreditation Submission Window

The submission window for non-public schools to submit a petition for performance-based state accreditation is open Thursday, January 2, through Wednesday, April 30. Petitions must be completed and submitted to IDOE prior to the school year for which accreditation would begin. Schools may also submit a Notice of Intent form to alert IDOE of their intention to submit a petition. Contact IDOE's Office of Accountability with any questions.

### REMINDER: 2024 Federal Accountability Now Available

The technical issues affecting 2024 federal accountability have been resolved and the 2024 federal report cards are available to all public schools in the accountability portal. The audit period has been extended and will run through Friday, January 10. Issues should be submitted through a data audit using the template found in the Federal Accountability folder in Moodle. Additional Information regarding submitting a federal accountability audit can be found on Moodle in the school Accountability & Accreditation Community in the Federal Accountability System/Audit Information folder. Please see: School Accountability & Accreditation Community (the Enrollment Key is "AccountabilityCommunity"). The deadline to submit a Federal Accountability audit is Friday, January 10. Contact IDOE's Office of Accountability with any questions.

### 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 2025 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 deadline for application is Friday, January 10. Contact IDOE's Office of Accountability with any questions.

Office of Assessment

### NEW: 2025-2026 Indiana Assessment Windows Now Available

The 2025-2026 Indiana Assessment Windows have been posted to IDOE's Assessment webpage. Administrators should review and account for these dates when coordinating next year's schedule. Contact IDOE's Office of Student Assessment with questions.

Office of Educator Talent and the Literacy Center

### REMINDER: Indiana Early Literacy Achievement Grant

IDOE's Early Literacy Achievement Grant was established to reward schools and teachers for improving students' foundational reading skills. Additional guidance for public school corporations and charter schools can be found here. Funds were distributed on Monday, December 16. Refer to the frequently asked questions document for additional information. Contact IDOE's Literacy Center 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 At-Home Testing Requirements to ensure the testing session will not be invalidated, thus requiring payment for another exam session. For support with Praxis, contact ETS Praxis Customer Support or 1-800-772-9476.

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

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

Office of Information Technology

### NEW: Fall 2024 Public Corporation Transfer Report Now Available

The school transfer report for fall 2024 is now available on IDOE's Data Center and Reports webpage. This report shows the breakdown of enrollment for each Indiana school based on whether the student lives in the school corporation (legal settlement) or is coming from another school corporation.

### NEW: 2024-2025 Enrollment Data Now Available

The latest enrollment numbers for Indiana schools are now available on IDOE's Data Center and Reports webpage. Enrollment spreadsheets have been updated with a 2025 tab to provide the latest counts certified in October 2024.

### REMINDER: Registration Now Open for Indiana Trusted Learning Environment (TLE) Cohorts

All Indiana schools are invited to participate in a no-cost opportunity to improve their student data privacy practices and data security, while pursuing national recognition under the Consortium for School Networking (CoSN) TLE Seal Program. Click here to apply for the program, which will launch on Monday, January 6. Contact IDOE's Office of Information Technology with any questions.

### REMINDER: Attendance Insights Review

As we approach the mid-point of the school year, please take a look at the attendance insights dashboard to review attendance data. A couple of reminders:

- Check the Timely Submissions tab of the report to see if your school is up-to-date with submission of attendance data.

- Check on unexcused absence rates (Attendance Event Insights tab). How is your school doing with regard to habitual truancy?

- Review the projected chronic absenteeism numbers for your school (Absenteeism and Truancy Insights tab). How do these compare with last year's numbers?

- Graduates Prepared to Succeed (GPS) updated the K-12 data metrics just prior to Thanksgiving. This included an update to the rate of students with a 94% attendance rate for 2024. Consider comparing your GPS 94% attendance rate numbers for 2024 with where you are tracking for 2025.

### REMINDER: Data Request Process

This week, IDOE launched a new data request process in order to provide better service. Detailed forms are now available to data requesters tailored to the type of data being requested. The new process is available here. Contact IDOE's Office of Information Technology with additional questions.

### REMINDER: Nationwide Cybersecurity Review (NCSR) Now Open

Completion of the NCSR is required if your school is receiving services under the State and Local Cybersecurity Grant Program (SLCGP) through the Indiana Office of Technology (IOT). The NCSR is a no-cost, anonymous, annual cybersecurity self-assessment designed to measure gaps and capabilities of school cybersecurity programs and based on the National Institute of Standards and Technology Cybersecurity Framework (NIST CSF). The number of Indiana schools completing this process has grown by 720% since 2021. Consider completing this year's NCSR by registering here. Contact IDOE's Office of Information Technology with additional questions.

### REMINDER: No-Cost Cybersecurity Services Now Available Through IOT/SLCGP

IOT is providing no-cost services to all public schools in Indiana. These include:

- CrowdStrike Falcon Complete Licenses for all staff workstations and servers: provides a software that is monitored by a 24/7 secure operations center (SOC), automatically detects/blocks cyber threats, and allows cyber professionals to respond and alert your IT team, even at 2 in the morning on a Saturday.

- KnowBe4 for all staff workstations: provides access to conduct phishing exercises with staff and offers video training, posters, and documents.

- Udemy for all IT and central office employees: provides access to a comprehensive training library including cybersecurity, IT certification, leadership development, office suite, and project management courses.

- Cybersecurity assessments: provides a no-cost cybersecurity assessment of your schools cybersecurity posture, including a final report and recommendations for next steps that can be shared with school leadership/school board members.

Click here for more information on IOT Local Government services or contact IDOE's Office of Information Technology with additional questions.

## Office of School Finance

### NEW: Form 9 Submissions Open Wednesday, January 1

Form 9 submissions for the period of July 2024 through December 2024 will open on Wednesday, January 1. Submissions are due to IDOE by Friday, January 31. Contact form9@doe.in.gov with any questions.

### NEW: Indirect Cost Rates for Fiscal Year (FY) 2026

On Wednesday, January 1, the Office of School Finance will begin accepting applications from local education agencies (LEAs) eligible to receive FY 2026 Indirect Cost Rates. School corporations and charter schools that provided Form 9 financial information for FY 2024 are eligible to receive a restricted and an unrestricted indirect cost rate in FY 2026. New charter schools are eligible to apply but will be subject to the median rate. This memo includes the application instructions. Contact icr@doe.in.gov with any questions.

### REMINDER: Curricular Materials

The FY 2025 curricular material reimbursement was distributed on Tuesday, December 17. Please see this memo for more information. **Remember to transfer any remaining balance to the Education fund prior to December 31.** Contact IDOE's Office of School Finance with any questions.

## Office of School Support and Transformation

### NEW: 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, improve the efficiency of school operations, and promote innovative educational approaches to student learning. Interested officials can read more about the opportunity in the 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 25. Contact Georgia Watson with any questions.

### NEW: Prioritized Expert Partnerships

The Office of School Support Transformation will be launching an application in January 2025 for Prioritized Expert Partners to support Next Generation School Improvement Grants (Next Gen SIG). Expert partners must take a systemic approach to reimagine educational opportunities available to Indiana students. Interested organizations can read more about this opportunity in this memo. The application process will be opening soon through the Indiana Department of Administration (IDOA) website. Contact IDOE's Office of School Support and Transformation with any questions.

## Office of Student Pathways and Opportunities

### REMINDER: 2024-2025 School Year Graduation Pathways Webinars

The December Graduation Pathways webinar will take place on Thursday, December 19, and will focus on work-based learning with guest presenter, Anna Meer, from the Indiana Chamber's Institute for Workforce Excellence. Please access this document for all 2024-2025 school year webinar dates, times, and links. Contact IDOE's Office of Student Pathways and Opportunities with any questions.

### REMINDER: Graduation Pathways Office Hours

Graduation Pathways office hours have been canceled for December 2024 and January 2025. Office hours will resume in February 2025. Contact IDOE's Office of Student Pathways and Opportunities with any questions.

## Office of Special Education, English Learning, and Migrant Education

### REMINDER: Required Part B Proportionate Share Office Hours

The Office of Special Education's Part B fiscal team will be hosting office hours to assist LEAs with completing the FY24 and FY25 611 and 619 IDEA Part B grants Semi-Annual Proportionate Share Monitoring Reports. This is also a forum for helping with questions or issues regarding Proportionate Share. Each session is structured as a time for individual questions, there will be no formal presentation. Join at any time during the 60-minute sessions to receive answers to Part B questions or help with the completion and submission process.

- Wednesday, January 15, at 11 a.m. ET
- Friday, January 24, 1 p.m. ET

Contact IDOE's Office of Special Education with any questions.

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

### NEW: Register for Artificial Intelligence (AI) Professional Development Series

Join IDOE's Digital Learning team for *AI Insights for Educators*, a series of presentations from experts, researchers, and authors, featuring important topics related to AI in education that builds on IDOE's AI

Guidance. Speakers include Matt Miller, Lindy Hockenbary, and Alana Winnick. View the session titles and dates here and register to attend here. Contact IDOE's Office of Digital Learning with any questions.

### NEW: Educator Prep Series Begins Monday, January 6

IDOE and Indiana University Bloomington invite students in educator preparation programs to join us in the Indiana Learning Lab for the first of four sessions in the Educator Prep series, which aims to build computing capacity for pre-service educators in computer science (CS) education. To register for workshops, or view on-demand sessions, create a free 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.

### REMINDER: Grades 10-12 Workplace Spanish Standards Review Committee

IDOE is recruiting teachers, administrators, and business representatives to review grades 10-12 Workplace Spanish Standards. If you are interested in being part of this process, please complete the JotForm at this link on or before Friday, December 27, for consideration. Those approved will be notified in January. The work will be completed asynchronously and discussed at a virtual meeting in February. Contact IDOE's Office of Teaching and Learning with any questions.

> ## Office of Title Grants and Support

### REMINDER: Ed-Flex Annual Performance Report (APR)

All LEAs that had an approved Ed-Flex waiver in the 2023-2024 school year are required to submit an Annual Performance Report to demonstrate how use of the ed-flex waiver affected student achievement. If an LEA utilized more than one waiver, a separate APR must be submitted for each waiver. Please complete the Ed-Flex APR by Friday, January 10. Contact Brittany Kronmiller with any questions.

### REMINDER: Save the Date - Cohort 13 21st Century Community Learning Centers (21st CCLC) RFP Launch

The 21st CCLC Cohort 13 Request for Proposals will go live at in.gov/OST on February 28, 2025, and will close on August 15, 2025. 21st CCLC is a competitive grant that focuses on the development and enhancement of out-of-school time programs across the state. Schools (public, private, and charter) as well as community-based organizations are eligible to apply, pending they meet eligibility criteria. Contact OSTprogram@doe.in.gov with any questions.

### REMINDER: American Rescue Plan-Homeless Children and Youth (ARP-HCY) Reimbursement Form Submissions:

ARP Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) Fund for Homeless Children and Youth:

- Funds appropriated under the ARP-HCY I and II were available for encumbrance until September 30.
- Funds must be liquidated no later than Sunday, December 15.
- Final expenditure reports are due Monday, December 30. The access link will be shared with the program coordinators.

### REMINDER: 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 17, 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.

### REMINDER: Cohort Two of the Ed-Flex Waiver Now Live

All local educational agencies (LEAs) with previously-approved waivers must reapply for the 2024-2025 school year here. The deadline to apply for waiver two (paraprofessional qualification requirements) or waiver four (Title IV spending requirements), was Friday, November 15. If you have not received an extension for the waiver application, and still need to submit an application, please contact Brittany Kronmiller. The application for waiver #1 (up to 25% carryover for fiscal year [FY] 2024 to FY 2025) is due March 30, 2025.

### 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, March 6
- Thursday, May 8

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

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**News From Our Partners**

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### NEW FROM PROJECT THE LEAD THE WAY (PLTW): Demystifying AI in Education - Professional Learning Opportunity

PLTW has developed an immersive training experience to empower educators with the knowledge and skills to harness generative AI in the classroom. Facilitated by PLTW Master Teachers, these hands-on sessions provide a unique opportunity to explore cutting-edge tools and engage in meaningful discourse about the benefits, challenges, and ethical considerations of AI in the classroom. Generous funding from industry partners is currently available to cover registration costs for Indiana district cohorts. Administrators responsible for professional learning at the building or district level should contact PLTW's Jimmy Benson to bring this valuable AI training opportunity to your teachers at no cost to your district!

### NEW FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES (DNR): Winter-Spring 2025 Workshop Offerings from DNR's Project Wet and Wild

DNR's Project Wet and Project Wild is back with additional educator workshops. See this flyer for more information. Contact state coordinator Kathy Madren with any questions.

### REMINDER FROM THE READING LEAGUE INDIANA: Science of Reading Experts Explain Series

In the next live Expert Explain series on Thursday, January 16, Dr. Stephanie Stollar will present *Progress Monitoring Reading: Shifting From Documenting Failure to Accelerating Growth*. In this session, Dr. Stollar will revisit and clarify the value of progress monitoring by illustrating examples of using progress monitoring data to improve instruction at all tiers of the MTSS framework for school improvement. All sessions will be recorded and shared in the Indiana Learning Lab. See registration details here. Contact IDOE's Literacy Center with any questions.

### REMINDER FROM THE DISTRESSED UNIT APPEAL BOARD (DUAB): Annual Update of the School Corporation Fiscal Indicators

The annual update of the School Corporation Fiscal Indicators with calendar year 2023 financial information is now available here. To help make this information easier to navigate, each chart now has its own subpage. This new format provides the ability to toggle easily between each chart and its underlying data, as well as download a single chart when transferring to a slide presentation. As a reminder, **IC 5-13-7-8 requires superintendents (or their designee) to submit a written report to their school boards that assesses the financial condition of the school corporation based on these indicators at the annual board of finance meeting in January.** Schools are encouraged to present the report as an agenda item during the meeting. Along with the new look and feel, investments (along with cash) have also been incorporated into the Fund Balance as a Percent of Expenditures indicator. If you have any questions or suggestions, please contact indicators@duab.in.gov.

### REMINDER FROM THE NATIONAL COMPUTER SCIENCE TEACHERS ASSOCIATION (CSTA) AND NEXTECH: Applications Now Live for Computer Science Professional Development (CSPD) 2025 Week

CSTA and Nextech invite all Indiana K-12 educators teaching computer science content during the 2025-2026 school year to apply to participate in a week of in-person professional development (June 16 through June 20, 2025) at Indiana University in Bloomington. Additional opportunities include networking events and supplemental workshops during CSPDWeek. Visit the CSPDWeek 2025 website to learn more about this opportunity and to apply. Contact Nextech with any questions.

### REMINDER FROM NEXTECH: Registration is Now Open for 2025 Nextech Navigate

Modeled after tech and educational conferences, Nextech Navigate is a virtual computer science conference designed to inspire rising freshman (current eighth graders) and current high school students (ninth through 12th grade) to pursue a post-secondary path in computer science and technology, and to remind them that they are the innovators of our future. All Indiana students in grades eight through 12 are invited to attend this four-hour virtual conference regardless of computer science class enrollment and type of school they attend. Use this link to register. Contact Nextech with any questions.

## REMINDER FROM EMPLOY INDY: Marion County Career Coaching

Marion County current and future career advisors, join us for an empowering career coaching event at the Central Indiana Education Service Center. Students are invited to a free full-day conference on Wednesday, April 30, for career coaches and advisors featuring speakers, breakout sessions, workshops and networking. Registration is now open and limited spots are available.

## REMINDER FROM THE COMMISSION FOR HIGHER EDUCATION (CHE): November Career and Technical Education (CTE) Newsletter

The Office of CTE shared the November CTE Newsletter last month. Individuals can sign up to receive newsletters here. Contact CHE's Office of Career and Technical Education with any questions.

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