



An Update From the Indiana Department of Education for December 6, 2024

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Indiana Department of Education

Dr. Katie Jenner, Secretary of Education

A Message from Dr. Katie Jenner

Last Wednesday, just before Thanksgiving, I attended an event that I'd never heard of until just a few years ago—the annual "Duck Lunch" (yes, they really do serve duck). I'm told it started over 40 years ago when Jim Morris, an Indiana public servant and legend, invited a few friends together to break bread and share their gratitudes. While 40 years ago, the "Duck Lunch" was just a few friends around a small table, it has continued to grow with each passing year. And, Jim Morris always welcomed more to the table.

Jim was a connector. He spent his life serving others and bringing good people together. It never mattered a person's socio-economic status or political party, he just connected good people with other good people. He wanted to leave this world better than he found it, and he did this with great intention...always bringing people along with him.

So, last week, an event that originated 40 years ago with just a few people now had several hundred community leaders, educators, legislators, preachers, entrepreneurs, philanthropists...all present to break bread, and most importantly, to be thankful for our blessings and the multiplying effect of working together.

Sitting alongside colleagues, friends, and even strangers, I was reminded that we each, in our own sphere of influence, have the opportunity to be a multiplier. I've seen this firsthand traveling the state...where one local change agent...one teacher, coach, or leader lights the spark that leads to the positive impact. My hope is that we will continue to light the spark...to be the change agents...and to be the multipliers that help make our state and the educational opportunities that exist here stronger and better than ever.

It has been an honor to serve with you over the past four years...and I look forward to continuing to work together for Indiana students in 2025 and beyond. Thank you for ALL that you do...let's keep at it!



Office of Accountability

NEW: 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 from Friday December 6, 2024 through January 10, 2025. 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. The deadline to submit a Federal Accountability audit is Friday, January 10, 2025. Contact IDOE's [Office of Accountability](#) with any questions.

Office of Assessment

NEW: The Kindergarten - Grade 2 (K-2) Mathematics Classroom Assessment Performance Level Descriptors (PLDs) Now Available

The K-2 Mathematics Classroom Assessment PLDs are now available on the [Indiana Assessment Frameworks](#). The K-2 Mathematics Classroom Assessment PLDs reflect the learning path for each standard based on students' natural progression of skills and levels of thinking for specific content. Using the PLDs, educators can tailor classroom assessments to provide student-level proficiency data for each standard and, using high-quality teaching practices and materials, can support student growth horizontally across proficiency levels or vertically between grade levels. For more support using and interpreting PLDs, visit the [PLD Guide](#). Contact IDOE's [Office of Student Assessment](#) with any questions.

REMINDER: Apply for the 2025-2026 Dyslexia Assessment Program Approval Committee

DOE seeks qualified committee members to evaluate dyslexia screener and diagnostic assessment programs for potential approval for the 2025-2026 school year. Interested educators must complete the [2025-2026 Dyslexia Assessment Program Approval Committee Interest Survey](#) by Friday, December 20. Completion of the interest survey is not binding. Contact IDOE's [Office of Student Assessment](#) with any questions.

REMINDER: Apply for the 2025-2026 Formative (Interim) Assessment Grant Program Approval Committee

DOE seeks qualified candidates to evaluate formative (interim) assessment programs for potential approval for the 2025-2026 school year. Interested educators must complete the [2025-2026 Formative \(Interim\) Assessment Program Approval Committee Interest Survey](#) by Friday, December 20. Completion of the interest survey is not binding. Contact IDOE's [Office of Student Assessment](#) with any questions.

REMINDER: ILEARN Mathematics Proficiency Level Descriptors (PLDs) and Item Specifications

The ILEARN Mathematics PLDs and Items Specifications for all Indiana Academics Standards in grades 3-8 will be available and linked on the [Indiana Assessment Framework](#) by the end of December. These Indiana-specific PLDs and item specifications support teachers and students by translating academic standard proficiency expectations into meaningful descriptions and examples of proficiency at the standard level. Contact IDOE's [Office of Student Assessment](#) with any questions

Office of Educator Talent and the Literacy Center

NEW: Indiana Early Literacy Achievement Grant

DOE'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](#). Recipients can anticipate distribution of funds by Friday, December 13. 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 questions.

Office of Information Technology

NEW: 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.

NEW: 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 Building Physical Security and Safety

NEW: School Health Report

The School Health Report is now open and will close on the last Friday in April. Schools may enter their vision and hearing screening data into the School Health Report as soon as the screenings in the mandatory grade levels have been completed. This includes the initial vision and hearing screenings, the MCT vision screening, and make-up screenings to ensure any students absent or missed during the initial screenings were completed. It is important to note that all vision and hearing data must be **entered at the same time** for the School Health Report to submit successfully. Additional information and instructions for completing the School Health Report can be found [here](#). Contact LINK@doe.in.gov with questions about accessing the report.

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 Student, School, and Family Engagement

NEW: Child Abuse and Child Sexual Abuse Prevention Resources

In collaboration with Knot Today, a new resource document containing evidence-based and promising programs and activities can be found [here](#). Per IC-20-30-5-5.7, annually by December 15, each public school, including charter schools and accredited non-public schools must provide age-appropriate and research and evidence-based instruction on child abuse and child sexual abuse to students in kindergarten through grade 12. IDOE documentation regarding these resources can be found [here](#). Contact IDOE's [Office of Student, School, and Family Engagement](#) with any questions.

NEW: Free In-Person Suicide Prevention Training Available

IDOE is offering in-person onsite suicide prevention training to school districts that have at least 10 school staff (may include school volunteers, bus drivers, cafeteria staff, teachers, principals, office staff and superintendent) willing to be trained. Individuals within the school building having contact with students in grades five through 12 are required by state law to have suicide prevention training once every three years. The course is a two-hour Question, Persuade, and Refer (QPR) training and meets requirements of state law. Contact [Jason Murrey](#) with any questions and to setup a training for 2025.

Office of Special Education, English Learning, and Migrant Education

NEW: Functional Behavioral Assessment Resource from U.S. Department of Education

The U.S. Department of Education's (ED's) Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services (OSERS) and the Office of Elementary and Secondary Education (OESE) released guidance to help schools and early childhood programs better support students' behavioral needs. The [Using Functional Behavioral Assessments to Create Supportive Learning Environments guidance](#) focuses on evidence-based practices to support students, with or without disabilities, whose behavior interferes with learning. Contact IDOE's [Office of Special Education](#) with questions on this ED resource.

NEW: Spread the Word - Early Childhood

IDOE has released updated documentation for [Part C to Part B Transition](#) (First Steps) and [Preschool Environments](#). While the information is not new, it is presented in an easy-to-read format, addresses common misconceptions, and answers frequently asked questions. LEAs should review each document, disseminate to staff involved with First Steps transitions, evaluate and place children aged three to five in preschool settings, and ensure that local policies, practices, and procedures comply with all regulations. Contact IDOE's [Office of Special Education](#) with any questions.

NEW: IIEP December Release Notes from PCG

Today, Friday, December 6, PCG will release the December release notes that provide the latest IIEP system updates. [This document](#) includes the location and description of the update. Contact PCG with any questions.

REMINDER: Monthly New EL Director Professional Learning Community (PLC)

Join the PLC for new directors of English learner 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, December 10, at 9:30 a.m. ET. The meeting link and info can be found on the [EL PD Opportunities Calendar](#). Please contact IDOE's [Office of English Learning and Migrant Education](#) with questions.

REMINDER: Virtual English Learner (EL) Leadership Meeting on Wednesday, December 11

IDOE's Office of English Learning and Migrant Education will host the next EL Leadership Meeting virtually from 10 to 11:30 a.m. ET on Wednesday, December 11. This meeting is intended for Indiana K-12 EL leaders and administrators and will consist of updates and interaction on timely EL topics. Registration is not required. Visit the [Indiana EL Professional Development Opportunities Calendar](#) for the meeting link. Contact IDOE's [Office of English Learning and Migrant Education](#) with any questions.

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

NEW: Artificial Intelligence (AI) Professional Development Series

Join us for the first two sessions in a new professional development series on AI in education. This series kicks off with "Demystifying AI: Essentials for Educators" and "Teacher-Driven AI: Crafting Safe Spaces, Tools, and Tutors... Oh My!" This series builds on Indiana's [Artificial Intelligence Guidance](#). Register to attend [here](#). Contact IDOE's [Office of Digital Learning](#) with any questions.

NEW: STEM Certification Applications Due Friday, December 13

Schools applying for STEM Certification and Recertification should revisit the [guidance](#) for kindergarten through grade eight and secondary school STEM certification when evaluating evidence and artifacts to become an IDOE STEM Certified School. Schools that completed the Intent to Apply form by October 25, are able to apply for certification. Applications for both K-8 and Secondary STEM Certification are due by Friday, December 13. Contact stemcertification@doe.in.gov with any questions.

REMINDER: Imagination Library Guides Available in Spanish

Spanish family guides to accompany the bilingual books available to children and families from the Imagination Library are now available through the [Indiana Learning Lab](#). Contact IDOE's [Office of Kindergarten Readiness](#) with any questions.

REMINDER: 2025-2026 Elementary/Middle and High School Course Titles and Descriptions (CTDs) Now Available

The [2025-2026 High School CTDs](#) and [2025-2026 Elementary and Middle School CTDs](#) provide important guidance as school leaders prepare their course and content offerings for the upcoming year. In addition to core content and general elective course updates, the 2025-2026 High School CTD includes updates specific to career and technical education course offerings. Codes listed before each program/course title and descriptions will be used for IDOE data reporting. IDOE is finalizing a separate companion document for the 2025-2026 school year which will include information such as course codes and titles, course durations, available credits, recommended and required course prerequisites, dual credit designations and which course(s) support a variety of Graduation Pathways. Contact IDOE's [Office of Teaching and Learning](#) with any questions.

REMINDER: Internet Safety Curriculum Review Process Now Open

Pursuant to Indiana Code (IC) 20-30-6. 1-4, IDOE will publish an approved list of high-quality, age-appropriate internet safety curricula that schools may use to support their internet safety instruction. Potential curriculum providers can see [this memo](#) for more information concerning the timeline and components of the review process. Contact IDOE's [Office of Digital Learning](#) with any questions.

REMINDER: Summer of Learning 2025 Grant Recipients Announced

The Office of Digital Learning is pleased to announce the 14 recipients of the 2025 Summer of Learning Grant. The summer 2025 conference series will offer educators opportunities to connect with innovative, technology-enhanced pedagogy related to virtual and blended learning, Universal Design for Learning and accessibility, integrated STEM, artificial intelligence (AI) and AI literacy, and adult learning theories/research and professional development. To read a full list of grant recipients, see [this memo](#). Contact IDOE's [Office of Digital Learning](#) with any questions.

REMINDER: On-Demand Professional Development (PD) with IDOE

Throughout the school year, IDOE hosts *PD with IDOE* on a variety of topics. October's workshops are all available on demand:

- [The Relationship Between Artificial Intelligence \(AI\) & Citation: It's Complicated](#)
- [Universal Screener and Dyslexia Programming Guidance](#)
- [Indiana's Large-Scale Artificial Intelligence \(AI\) Pilot: Teacher Survey Findings](#)
- [Science of Reading and Dyslexia Toolkit Workshop](#)

Attend [future live sessions](#) and view [other on-demand content](#) in the Learning Lab. Contact IDOE's [Office of Digital Learning](#) with any questions.

REMINDER: December PD with IDOE

December PD with IDOE continues Wednesday, December 11, at 4 p.m. ET with *TIE-IN in Action: Inspiring Instruction and Career Connections* led by Ryan Murray, STEM Integration Specialist with Keep Indiana Learning, Central Indiana Educational Service Center. Ryan will be joined by a panel of educators who participated in the inaugural phase of the TIE-IN program. View a full list of December sessions [here](#). 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: Early Childhood Educator (ECE) Registered Teacher Apprenticeship Program (RTAP) Accepting Schools for Spring and 2025

[Indiana's ECE RTAP](#) provides entry opportunities and career pathways for students interested in early childhood education through related instruction, on-the-job training, and direct employment. Related instruction for Indiana's ECE program aligns with the Next Level Programs of Study Early (NLPS) Childhood Education career pathway and includes a combination of high school courses, dual credit, and

dual enrollment. School corporations interested in beginning an ECE Registered Teacher Apprenticeship program for spring 2025 or fall 2025 year should [complete the form](#). Contact IDOE's [Office of Kindergarten Readiness](#) with any questions.

Office of Title Grants and Support

NEW: 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: TitleCon 2025 Call for Proposals

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 [call for proposal form](#) for more information. All submissions are due by Friday, December 13. Contact [Caitlin Laurino](#) with any questions.

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: 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:

- [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](#).

News From Our Partners

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

In the next live Expert Explain series on Thursday, December 12, Dr. Jamey Peavler will present *Diagnostic Data Part II: How to Use Diagnostic Reading Assessments with Individual Students*. In this session, participants will demonstrate how to use diagnostic data to identify underlying skill deficits when students are referred for intervention. Several real-life examples from striving readers will be shared. All sessions will be recorded and shared in the Indiana Learning Lab. See registration details [here](#). Contact IDOE's [Literacy Center](#) with any questions.

NEW FROM THE INDIANA COUNCIL OF TEACHERS OF ENGLISH: 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 NATIONAL MATH STARS: Program for High Ability Students

National Math Stars applications open in January. This program serves high ability students beginning in grade two by offering \$100,000 per student to facilitate math enrichment, tutoring, family support, and college counseling throughout the course of their education. For detailed information about school partnering, qualifications, and the application process, visit [National Math Stars](#).

NEW FROM THE ECONOMICS OLYMPIAD: Olympiad Now Open to U.S. High School Students

For the first time ever, the Economics Olympiad is now open to high school students across the U.S. This prestigious competition challenges students to demonstrate their knowledge of economics, personal finance, critical thinking, and real-world problem-solving skills. Top participants will advance to a National Final Round and the top five will go on to represent the United States in an all-expense paid trip to the International Economics Olympiad, held in Olympia, Greece. Don't miss this opportunity to put your students on the path to success. Learn more and register [here](#). Contact [Julie Smitherman](#) with any questions.

NEW 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 COLLEGE BOARD: Apply Now for 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 for the 2025-2026 school year will close on Friday, December 13. Learn more about this opportunity by visiting [careerkickstart.org](#).

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.



Weekly Updates

View previous weekly updates from Dr. Katie Jenner here.

Stay Informed

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