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## An Update From the Indiana Department of Education for August 30, 2024



Indiana Department of Education sent this bulletin at 08/30/2024 07:00 AM EDT



Indiana Department of Education

Dr. Katie Jenner, Secretary of Education

### A Message from Dr. Katie Jenner

We've had a great start to the school year, and now we have an opportunity to enjoy a three day weekend ahead.

In 1894, Congress established a national holiday – on the first Monday of September – to celebrate and honor our nation's workers and their contributions to our country.

As we head into Labor Day weekend, I want to thank all of our teachers, school and district leaders, school counselors, bus drivers, cafeteria workers, custodians, and beyond, for all you do to contribute to our communities, our state, our nation, and most importantly, our students. I've shared this quote before, but it's one of my favorites, "Alone we can do so little, together we can do so much." This wisdom from Helen Keller describes the true team work it takes and that is happening across our state to support students.

I hope your Labor Day weekend is filled with relaxation, family time, and doing whatever it is that you enjoy most! Thanks for all you do for Indiana students.



### Important Legislative Guidance

#### REMINDER: Implementation Guidance for Newly Enacted Education Laws

Following the close of each legislative session, IDOE immediately begins working to implement newly-enacted legislation impacting K-12 education, which includes compiling guidance for educators. Guidance is a product of robust cross-agency collaboration and partnership with countless stakeholders. Any future updates will be added to [this comprehensive guidance document](#) and shared via the weekly newsletter.

### Office of Accountability

#### NEW: Mandatory and Voluntary Graduation Rate Audit

All schools that are subject to the mandatory graduation rate audit of the 2024 cohort have been notified by email. If you did not receive an email and/or are unsure if your school was selected, please check the [list of mandatory audit schools](#) (Enrollment key: "AccountabilityCommunity"). Every high school should review their 2024 cohort. If there are students in the 2024 cohort with an incorrect (non-graduate) cohort status, please submit those students on the [voluntary graduation rate audit](#). All schools are welcome to participate in the voluntary graduation rate audit and it is the *final opportunity to request a change to the 2024 cohort*. The mandatory and voluntary graduation rate audits will be open from Wednesday, October 2, through Friday, October 25. Contact IDOE's [Office of Accountability](#) with any questions.

#### REMINDER: 2024-2025 Corporation Amendments

The 2024-2025 school year corporation amendment window closes today, Friday, August 30. Corporations and schools with school profile changes should submit a corporation amendment request with supporting documentation via [Jotform](#). Information regarding submission can be found [here](#).

Corporations and schools without any school profile changes do not need to submit a request. Contact IDOE's [Office of Accountability](#) with any questions.

### **REMINDER: Third-Party Accreditation Petition Window Now Open**

Accrediting organizations for kindergarten through grade 12 schools that are interested in being recognized by the Indiana State Board of Education (SBOE) may submit a petition to IDOE for review. A notice of intent must be submitted by Sunday, September 1, and the petition must be submitted by Saturday, November 30, for recognition during the 2025-2026 school year. Pursuant to statute, IDOE will provide a recommendation to SBOE within six months of receipt of a petition. Additional information and the [third-party accreditation petition](#) can be found on IDOE's [School Accreditation webpage](#). Contact IDOE's [Office of Accountability](#) with any questions.

## Office of Communications and External Affairs

### **REMINDER: Indiana Purple Star School Application Now Available**

The Indiana Purple Star School Designation honors schools that have displayed a significant commitment to service members, veterans, and students and families connected to our nation's military. The 2024 application is open through Monday, September 2. Learn about the requirements and apply [here](#). Contact IDOE's [Communications team](#) with any questions.

## Office of Educator Talent and the Literacy Center

### **NEW: Universal Screener and Dyslexia Programming Office Hours**

Office hours will be offered for universal screener and dyslexia programming guidance to support schools with completing K-2 universal screening within the 90 calendar days of the start of the school year. The requirements and list of approved screeners can be found [here](#).

Register for one of the sessions below:

- [Wednesday, September 11, 10 a.m. to 10:45 a.m. ET](#)
- [Wednesday, September 18, 4 p.m. to 4:45 p.m. ET](#)

Contact IDOE's [Literacy Center](#) with any questions.

### **REMINDER: Universal Screener and Dyslexia Programming Guidance**

Schools are encouraged to review the [Universal Screener and Dyslexia Programming guidance](#) for the 2024-2025 school year. [Indiana Code \(IC\) 20-35.5](#) requires schools to administer a universal screener to all kindergarten, first, and second grade students annually to identify students who may be "at some risk" or "at risk" for learning characteristics of dyslexia. This early identification of students who are not on track to be proficient readers allows early implementation of targeted support. More information can be found on IDOE's [Dyslexia webpage](#).

### **REMINDER: Nominations Open for the 2025 Recognizing Inspiring School Employees (RISE) Classified Staff Award**

Public and non-public schools across the state are encouraged to nominate up to two classified school employees for the [RISE Award](#). The RISE Award honors and promotes the excellence exhibited by classified school employees who provide exemplary service to students in pre-kindergarten through high school. The deadline to submit nominations is Friday, September 13, at 5 p.m. ET. Nominations can be submitted via [JotForm](#). Contact IDOE's [Office of Educator Talent](#) with any questions.

### **REMINDER: Flexible Keys to Literacy Professional Development Options Available Now**

Registration is now open for educators who hold an Indiana professional educator license to enroll in one of the new flexible professional development options outlined in [this memo](#). Additional information can be found [here](#), and the registration form with all available options can be found [here](#). Educators who previously registered are able to continue with their current enrollment and can use the registration form to confirm their plans to remain in the live cohort sessions or choose a different option. Contact IDOE's [Literacy Center](#) with any additional questions.

### **REMINDER: Approval Process for 80 Hours of Professional Development to Support Early Literacy Endorsement Requirements and Praxis Voucher Request**

Educators who plan to add Indiana's Early Literacy Endorsement can follow the process outlined [here](#) to submit a request to verify completion of an approved 80 hours of professional development and request a Praxis Voucher. Contact IDOE's [Literacy Center](#) with any questions.

## **REMINDER: Early Literacy Endorsement Professional Development Verification**

Verified programs that can be used to support the 80 hours of professional development needed for the Early Literacy Endorsement can be found on [this document](#). Training providers (including school districts) may request approval to certify which requirements are met through participation in the training by submitting [this form](#) with supporting evidence. The list of approved programs will be updated regularly. Contact IDOE's [Literacy Center](#) with any questions.

## **REMINDER: Staff Performance Evaluation Plan Submission**

[Senate Enrolled Act 486](#) (2023) requires each school corporation to develop or adopt a plan for annual performance evaluations for each certificate employee. Staff performance evaluation plans must be submitted via JotForm by Friday, September 13. For more information, [click here](#). Contact IDOE's [Office of Educator Talent](#) with any questions.

## **REMINDER: Teacher Appreciation Grant (TAG) Policy Submission Required**

Information regarding the TAG Policy Submission can be found [here](#). Local educational agencies (LEAs) (including charter and virtual charter schools) must submit the TAG policy for approval via [JotForm](#) by Friday, September 13, to be eligible to receive TAG funding. Contact [tag@doe.in.gov](mailto:tag@doe.in.gov) with any questions.

## Office of Information Technology

## **NEW: CISA Offers Free Cybersecurity Resources to Schools**

CISA offers some great tools and resources to improve your cybersecurity posture including the [K12 Cybersecurity Report](#) and [Toolkit, Stop Ransomware resources, a guide jointly developed with U.S. Department of Education: Defensible and Resilient](#), and the [Secure By Design](#) program, which provides standards to providers that house student data such as student information systems and then recognizes their commitment to best practices. CISA also offers great materials for families and employees regarding staying safe online through [Secure Our World](#). Schools can also sign up for [free Cyber Hygiene Services](#). Contact [Brad Hagg](#) with any questions.

## **REMINDER: Attendance Insights Dashboard Now Live**

A new attendance dashboard is now available to school leaders with the following roles: LEA Administrator, School Administrator, Data Administrator, Counselor, Principal, Assistant Principal, Superintendent, Assistant Superintendent, and DOE Data Viewer on the EdData platform found on the [Link Portal](#). The Attendance Insights dashboard provides insights into school attendance, broken down by school year, week, corporation, school, and grade, but will not filter to an individual student level. The attendance summary will update weekly to show the current week's attendance separated into attendance events, and will highlight year over year numbers to gauge attendance event trends. For the first time on a dashboard, habitually truant and chronic absenteeism rates will be calculated weekly. This dashboard can be utilized to look at attendance events by specific dates and grade level, comparisons of attendance events within school corporations, and metrics on timely submissions of attendance data. A public version of this dashboard will be released later this year.

## **NEW: KnowBe4 Offers Free Tools in Addition to Security Awareness Training**

IDOE provides no-cost licenses to the KnowBe4 security awareness training platform to all schools to improve staff knowledge and preparedness. KnowBe4 additionally offers [free tools](#) to use to strengthen your organization's cybersecurity posture. These include supplemental training on phishing, supplemental security awareness, password security, email security, and malware tools. Now is a great time to start planning for October Cybersecurity Awareness Month activities, and KnowBe4 has a [free resource kit](#) available including a [weekly activities planner](#) and a [resource guide](#). Contact [Brad Hagg](#) with any questions.

## **NEW: INView Integrating Into Indiana GPS Dashboard Today, Friday August 30**

Beginning today, Friday, August 30, INview will be integrated into the [Indiana GPS dashboard](#). This will combine the data Hoosiers interact with the most on INView with the user-friendly functionality of Indiana GPS. Bringing this education data together in one spot will make it easier for educators, parents, and other stakeholders to find what they are looking for more quickly. Many features, such as map and compare, have been accessible through Indiana GPS since January 2024. Please fill out this [JotForm](#) with any questions.

## **REMINDER: Data Exchange (DEX) Office Hours for 2024-2025**

Weekly DEX office hours sessions will be available throughout August on Tuesday mornings and Thursday afternoons. Beginning in September, weekly DEX office hours sessions will return to a Tuesday-

only schedule. Links to submit questions, responses, and to join the office hours sessions can be found in [Knowledge Hub > Communications Hub > Upcoming Events](#).

- **Tuesday, September 3**, 1 to 2:30 p.m. ET, Topic: Membership
- **Tuesday, September 10**, 10:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. ET, Topic: DEX Training for New Users
- **Tuesday, September 17**, 1 to 2:30 p.m. ET, Topics: Calendar, Attendance, and Pupil Enrollment
- **Tuesday, September 24**, 10:30 a.m. to noon ET, Topic: Alternative Education

## **REMINDER: Multi-State Information Sharing and Analysis Center (MS-ISAC) Valuable Cybersecurity Resource for Indiana Schools**

[MS-ISAC memberships](#) are free for all public schools/school corporations in Indiana. Services include a 24/7 Security Operations Center, incident response and digital forensics services, monitoring of your public IP ranges and domains for possible compromises, access to a Malicious Code Analysis Platform (MCAP), weekly top-malicious domains and IPs report, free blocking of ransomware with Malicious Domain Blocking and Reporting (MDBR), access to cybersecurity table-top exercises, CIS SecureSuite Membership including access to CIS Benchmarks, CIS-CAT Pro, CIS WorkBench, remediation content, and more. Contact [Brad Hagg](#) with any questions.

## **REMINDER: Free Indiana Cybersecurity Resources**

The Indiana Office of Technology (IOT) provides tools and resources to schools on their [Local Government Services webpage](#). IOT also hosts a monthly virtual town hall on a cybersecurity topic on the second Tuesday of the month from 1 to 2 p.m. ET, and the sign-up for invitations is at the top of the page. House Enrolled Act 1169 requires all schools to designate a cybersecurity incident reporter. This requirement is fulfilled when schools complete the annual technology plan survey, but adding additional incident reporters as well as cyber incident reporting, as required in the law, may be completed. The [Indiana Cybersecurity Hub](#) has an abundance of resources including the [Indiana Cyber Hub Blog](#), [Cybersecurity for Education Toolkit 2.0](#), and the [Cyber Insurance Toolkit](#). Contact [Brad Hagg](#) with any questions.

## **REMINDER: LINK Portal Setup Requirements**

The [LINK Portal](#) is able to recognize all public, charter, and accredited non-public schools' local Google G-Suite or Microsoft 365 accounts. IDOE configures the organization's leader as the first account, and the organization leader must log in to designate up to two security coordinators responsible for overseeing the setup of roles for others in the organization. All superintendents and leaders of non-public schools must log in to the LINK Portal and review/update their security coordinators. Failure to do so will result in access issues to IDOE systems.

- Instructions for organization leaders on how to review/designate the security coordinators can be found [here](#).
- The registration process for the LINK Portal for new public and Choice schools can be found [here](#).
- New superintendents or organization leaders of non-public schools who need an initial account configured should email [link@doe.in.gov](mailto:link@doe.in.gov).

## **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
3. 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 will recognize active staff assignments/roles during the summer months from both the previous and upcoming school years, and will begin recognizing only the 2024-2025 school year assignments beginning Sunday, September 1. Security coordinator instructions can be found [here](#). Contact IDOE's [Data Exchange Team](#) with any questions.

## **REMINDER: SIS Vendor Changes**

IDOE-issued Data Exchange credentials (key and secret) are tied to the supporting SIS vendor. If your corporation will be changing or adding an SIS vendor for the upcoming school year, please email [link@doe.in.gov](mailto:link@doe.in.gov) with these changes. Your organization will receive a new set of credentials for the new vendor. An SIS vendor certification status list can be found [here](#). Additional information on the implementation of Data Exchange can be found on IDOE's [Data Exchange webpage](#). Contact IDOE's [Data Exchange Team](#) with any questions.

### **REMINDER: STN Application Center Retirement**

IDOE will be retiring the STN Application Center in the second quarter of 2025. This system is being replaced by newer systems including Data Exchange, Ed-ID, a new Choice Voucher Application, and an EdData report called Student Data Backpack. Local data administrators should login to the STN Application Center and download any certified roster data that your school requires under Administration > Retrieve Data, as historic data will not be available in the future. IDOE's Data Exchange Team is also compiling feedback on which current-year reports are still being utilized by data administrators for state reporting purposes, other than the STN Lookup. Please submit this information [here](#). Contact IDOE's [Data Exchange Team](#) with any questions.

## Office of School Building Physical Security and Safety

### **NEW: Vision and Hearing Screening**

Indiana Code requires public school corporations, including charter schools, to conduct vision and hearing screenings for students, including both in-person and virtual learners, in specific grade levels.

- **Vision Screening:** [IC 20-34-3-12](#) requires public and charter schools to conduct a near and distant visual acuity screening for students in kindergarten or first grade, students in third, fifth, and eighth grades, as well as students suspected of having a visual deficit. In addition to the visual acuity screening conducted by the school corporation or charter school, a more extensive visual screening using the Modified Clinical Technique (MCT) performed by a licensed eye professional, is required for students in kindergarten or first grade. More information can be found in the [Vision Screening Guidance memo](#).
- **Hearing Screening:** [IC 20-34-3-14](#) requires public and charter schools to conduct a hearing screening for students in first, fourth, seventh, and tenth grades, as well as students suspected of having a hearing deficit.

Additional resources regarding vision and hearing screening can be found in the [School Nurse Moodle Community](#).

## Office of School Finance

### **NEW: Office of School Finance Office Hours for September**

The Office of School Finance will host office hours on Tuesday, September 10, at 2 p.m. ET to discuss curricular materials and the upcoming fee study. The link can be found in the [Public School Finance Moodle community](#) (enrollment key PSCOM) under "General." Contact IDOE's [Office of School Finance](#) with any questions.

### **REMINDER: Public School Summer School Reimbursement**

The window to submit final 2024 summer school costs is now open through Sunday, September 15. Instructions for submitting summer school costs can be found in this [memo](#). Contact IDOE's [Office of School Finance](#) with any questions.

### **REMINDER: Non-Public School Summer School Reimbursement**

The window to submit final 2024 summer school costs is now open through Sunday, September 15. Instructions for submitting summer school costs can be found in this [memo](#). Contact IDOE's [Office of School Finance](#) with any questions.

## Office of School Support and Transformation

### **NEW: Recipients of Next Generation School Improvement Grant Announced**

The Office of School Support and Transformation is pleased to announce the recipients of the Next Generation School Improvement Grant, a federally funded initiative to transform educational opportunities in schools identified for additional support under Indiana's approved ESSA plan. Grant recipients will receive one year's worth of planning funds. Successful completion of the planning year will be followed by funding for three years of implementation. More information can be found in the [Next Generation School Improvement Grant Award Summary](#). Contact IDOE's [Office of School Support and Transformation](#) with any questions.

## **REMINDER: School Improvement Plan (SIP) Submissions Due Friday, October 4**

IDOE's Office of School Support and Transformation is accepting Comprehensive Need Assessment (CNA) and SIP submissions through Friday, October 4, on this [JotForm](#). In accordance with IC 20-31-5-1, public and state-accredited non-public schools must develop a strategic and continuous three-year SIP, and review these plans annually. All schools identified as Comprehensive Support and Improvement (CSI), Additional Targeted Support and Improvement (ATSI), or Targeted Support and Improvement (TSI) are required to submit SIPs and CNAs annually. All other schools must submit SIPs during the 2025-2026 school year. Use of IDOE's ESSA-aligned [SIP template](#) is recommended, however, schools may use any template as long as all required portions are included. This [memo](#) provides additional information. Contact IDOE's [Office of School Support and Transformation](#) with any questions.

### Office of Student Pathways and Opportunities

## **REMINDER: Homeless Education, Alternative Education, and High Ability Webinars**

In order to best support students and staff, the 2024-2025 McKinney-Vento, alternative education, and high ability webinars will begin in September. Communication will be emailed soon, regarding the updated webinar dates and links. Contact IDOE's [Office of Student Pathways and Opportunities](#) with any questions.

## **REMINDER: Career Scholarship Account (CSA) Application Open**

The State of Indiana is accepting applications for students to participate in the CSA program during the 2024-2025 school year. The first-in-the-nation CSA program provides \$5,000 annually for tenth through twelfth grade students enrolled in eligible work-based learning programs, including internships, apprenticeships, applied learning experiences, and credential attainment experiences. Students at any Indiana high school are encouraged to apply. Applications for the 2024-2025 school year will be accepted through Tuesday, October 1. Visit the Indiana Treasurer of State's [student resources webpage](#) for additional information on the CSA program, eligibility requirements, and to access the student application. Additional details on how funds may be used can be found [here](#). Contact IDOE's [Office of Student Pathways and Opportunities](#) with any questions.

## **REMINDER: 2024-2025 School Year Graduation Pathways Office Hours**

Graduation Pathways office hours for the 2024-2025 school year are now underway. Use [this](#) document for dates, times, and links. Contact IDOE's [Office of Student Pathways and Opportunities](#) with any questions.

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

## **NEW: 2024-2025 English Learner (EL) Guidebook Now Available**

IDOE's [2024-2025 EL Guidebook](#) is now available on IDOE's [English Learning and Migrant Education webpage](#). This year's guidebook includes updated EL exit criteria guidance, information on the roles of EL Teachers of Record and Teachers of Service, and additional form templates in the appendices. Contact IDOE's [Office of English Learning and Migrant Education](#) with any questions.

## **NEW: WIDA Writing with Multilingual Learners in the Secondary Grades Workshop**

WIDA will be facilitating a two-day, in-person workshop on Wednesday, October 2, and Thursday, October 3, at MSD Lawrence Township. This free, interactive workshop is for secondary teachers of multilingual learners and will focus on developing academic writing skills and communicating effectively for a variety of purposes and audiences. More information on the session can be found on [this flier](#). Registration is required via [Jotform](#) by Monday, September 16. Space is limited, and LEAs may send two participants. Contact IDOE's [Office of English Learning and Migrant Education](#) with any questions.

## **NEW: WIDA Workshop - Instructional Planning for the Bilingual Classroom**

WIDA will facilitate an in-person workshop on Friday, October 4, at MSD Lawrence Township. This free, interactive workshop is for Spanish bilingual education teachers and will focus on instructional planning that will elevate the assets of their multilingual learners; the session will be delivered primarily in Spanish. More information on the session can be found on [this flier](#). Registration is required via [Jotform](#) by Monday, September 16. Space is limited, and LEAs may send two participants. Contact IDOE's [Office of English Learning and Migrant Education](#) with any questions.

## **REMINDER: September Indiana IEP (IIEP) Virtual Office Hours**

Join IIEP virtual office hours sessions hosted by Public Consulting Group (PCG) on the third Wednesday of each month from 11 a.m. to noon ET via Microsoft Teams. Sessions will also be recorded and available in IIEP under the *Training* tab. [Register for September's session](#) to learn more about recent system

updates and upcoming changes, followed by a question and answer session. Contact [PCG](#) with questions regarding these office hours.

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

### **NEW: Updated Computer Science Course Guidance for Schools**

Pursuant to [IC 20-32-4-18](#), IDOE and the Indiana Commission for Higher Education (CHE) defined [guidance](#) to support schools in the implementation of the computer science course requirement. This update includes standards for Computing Foundations for a Digital Age (4565) and additional pathway courses. Contact IDOE's [Office of Teaching and Learning](#), or ICHE's [Office of Career and Technical Education](#) with any questions.

### **NEW: Taking a Deeper Dive: Unpacking the 2023 Mathematics Frameworks**

Join IDOE's Office of Teaching and Learning for [Taking a Deeper Dive: Unpacking the 2023 Mathematics Frameworks](#) on Wednesday, September 4, from 4 to 4:30 p.m. ET. During this session, attendees will look at ways the 2023 Mathematics Frameworks can be used to go beyond the wording of the standard to provide content and pedagogical knowledge, explore assessment insights, and examine ways to provide universal supports for all students. View a full list of September 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](#) for questions on learning sessions, and [Office of Teaching and Learning](#) with questions regarding the frameworks.

### **NEW: 2025 Summer of Learning Grant Application Now Open**

IDOE's 2025 Summer of Learning Grant application is open through Friday, October 11. In summer 2024, this grant supported 11 conferences throughout the state, providing opportunities for over 3,000 Indiana educators to learn about teaching and learning in technology-rich environments. Public school corporations and public charter schools may apply to host one of these conference opportunities. School corporations must have completed the 2024 School Tech Plan Survey to be eligible to apply. More information about the grant application can be found in this [memo](#). Contact IDOE's [Office of Digital Learning](#) with any questions.

### **NEW: Artificial Intelligence (AI) Platforms in Indiana Series**

Are you interested in seeing the AI-platforms teachers and students are using in Indiana? As part of three grant opportunities, corporations across the state adopted AI platforms that met vendor requirements set forth by IDOE. Join us in the Indiana Learning Lab from Monday, September 30, through Friday, October 4, for [sessions that highlight](#) the capabilities and features of these platforms. Register for these workshops in the [Indiana Learning Lab](#). Contact IDOE's [Office of Digital Learning](#) with any questions.

### **UPDATED: Universal Design for Learning (UDL) Cohort Now Open to Additional Roles**

IDOE's Office of Digital Learning is partnering with [Novak Education](#) to offer an opportunity for those that provide coaching for teachers in instructional practices to earn a UDL Associate Level 1 Credential. This opportunity will support participants in the why, what, and how of UDL principles while developing coaching techniques to empower and support teachers in integrating UDL effectively. Participants must be able to attend two in-person workshops, six virtual sessions, and complete an online course. Register via [this form](#). Registration will close on Friday, September 27, or when registration reaches 90 participants who meet the requirements. Contact IDOE's [Office of Digital Learning](#) with any questions.

### **REMINDER: Opt-In Early Learning Assessment Opportunity**

The Indiana Student Performance Readiness and Observation of Understanding Tool (ISPROUT) will be available for children from birth to age two beginning in January 2025. This voluntary opportunity provides a snapshot of children's abilities in all early learning domains. Complete [this form](#) to opt in. You may also [opt in](#) for children ages three to five. Contact IDOE's [Office of Kindergarten Readiness](#) with any questions.

### **REMINDER: ISPROUT Committee Applications Now Open**

Educators for children ages birth to five are needed for item acceptance, standard setting, and reporting committees for ISPROUT. The committees will meet one to two times virtually in October, and stipends will be awarded for participation. Complete [the form](#) if interested, and contact IDOE's [Office of Kindergarten Readiness](#) with any questions.

### **REMINDER: 2024-2025 Digital Learning Parent and Family Support Grant**

Applications for the 2024-2025 Digital Learning Parent and Family Support Grant are now open through Friday, September 6. This grant allows school corporations to design a plan to support parents with topics related to educational technology and blended/virtual learning environments. See [this memo](#) for additional information and to apply. View the [Grant Support Session](#) or [Success Stories](#) for more support. Contact IDOE's [Office of Digital Learning](#) with any questions.

## Office of Title Grants and Support

### **NEW: Charter School Program (CSP) Quality Counts II Cohort 1 Awardees**

Congratulations to the 10 grantees named for Quality Counts II Cohort 1. Click [here](#) to see the listing and for more information. Contact [CharterPrograms@doe.in.gov](mailto:CharterPrograms@doe.in.gov) with any questions.

### **REMINDER: Year 4 ESSER Data Collection Revisions Due Wednesday, September 4**

Year 4 ESSER Data Collection Revisions are due no later than Wednesday, September 4. Only the CrossAct and ESSER I-III datasheets must be revised. Please see the memo distributed on or about August 20, containing all necessary details. Business Rules for completion may be found at each of these links: [CrossAct](#), [ESSER I](#), [ESSER II](#), [ESSER III](#). Datasheets may be found [in this folder](#) as needed. The datasheets revisions should be submitted via [this JotForm](#). Contact [Frank Chiki](#) with any questions.

### **REMINDER: Fall 2024 Microcredential Program**

IDOE's Office of Title Grants and Support will continue to offer a microcredential program for experienced program administrators in fall 2024. The microcredential program is a no-cost program that allows program administrators to develop their current practices and participate in ongoing learning and reflection by dedicating between four and six hours of work per microcredential skill. Two optional checkpoints will be provided by IDOE staff for any needed support. Participants will be provided five professional growth plan (PGP) points for each skill, as well as a bonus point on the risk assessment. Interested in participating in the fall informational session on Friday, September 27, at 11 a.m. ET. Please complete the [Microcredential Interest Survey](#). Contact [TitleI@doe.in.gov](mailto:TitleI@doe.in.gov) with any questions.

### **REMINDER: Quarterly Meeting Schedule for the 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, September 19](#)
- [Thursday, December 5](#)
- [March 6, 2025](#)
- [May 8, 2025](#)

Contact [TitleI@doe.in.gov](mailto:TitleI@doe.in.gov) with any questions.

### **REMINDER: Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) 2024 Budget Applications**

FFY24 Title II and FFY24 Title IV budget applications are due by Monday, September 30. The budget applications are being finalized and will be distributed when available. Contact [TitleII@doe.in.gov](mailto:TitleII@doe.in.gov) or [TitleIV@doe.in.gov](mailto:TitleIV@doe.in.gov) with any questions.

### **REMINDER: Alternative Household Application for Free and Reduced Eligibility**

The new [Alternative Household Application for Free and Reduced Eligibility](#) form has been released (replacing the former Textbook Rental Assistance form). LEAs may use this alternative form in determining poverty for a Community Eligibility Program (CEP). Charter schools are encouraged to use this form for reporting poverty counts used in calculating Federal Title Funding through Data Exchange. Contact [TitleI@doe.in.gov](mailto:TitleI@doe.in.gov) with any questions.

### **REMINDER: ESSER III American Rescue Plan (ARP) Fiscal Waiver-Consolidated Admin**

IDOE will apply for a fiscal waiver to consolidate ESSER III ARP Administrative Funds to provide funding for activities related to closing out ESF ESSER grants until March 2026. This waiver will also allow IDOE and LEAs to more effectively encumber federal financial year (FFY) 2022 federal funds. Specifically, IDOE is requesting the following requirement be waived:

Section 421(b) of the General Education Provisions Act (GEPA) to extend the period of availability of FFY22 funds for programs in which your SEA participates under its approved



consolidated state plan until September 30, 2025 (*GEPA waiver is not applicable to ESSER III SEA reserve or mandatory subgrant funds*).

Feedback will be accepted through [this JotForm](#) until 11:45 p.m. ET on Saturday, August 24. Contact [Frank Chiki](#) with any questions.

### **REMINDER: CSP Quality Counts II Cohort 2 Application**

CSP Quality Counts II Cohort 2 application is now live. Learn more [here](#). Contact [CharterPrograms@doe.in.gov](mailto:CharterPrograms@doe.in.gov) with any questions.

## News From Our Partners

### **NEW FROM THE INDIANA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH (IDOH): Upcoming Professional Development Trainings for PE Teachers and Out-of-School Time Professionals**

Join [School Health Corporation](#) and the [IDOH, Division of Nutrition and Physical Activity \(DNPA\)](#) for free professional development training for K-12 Indiana physical education teachers, health educators, and youth-serving organization program coordinators to engage students in active movement throughout before, during, and afterschool settings. These one-day trainings will focus on teaching participants new and creative ways to engage youth and adolescents to become physically active in before, during, and afterschool settings, including techniques on inclusive and adaptive play, social and emotional learning activities, and activities to offer with limited PE equipment available. Register below for a specific location:

- Lafayette: Tuesday, September 10, [click here](#)
- South Bend: Wednesday, September 11, [click here](#)
- Bloomington: Tuesday, September 24, [click here](#)
- Indianapolis: Wednesday, September 25, [click here](#)

Contact [Emma Smythe](#) with any questions.

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

In partnership with IDOE, the Reading League Indiana is proud to present the Science of Reading: Experts Explain Series. Featuring national reading science experts, this live, virtual series showcases critical research and resources for coaches and school leaders shifting their practice towards evidence-aligned reading and writing instruction.

The webinar will feature a brief presentation, followed by a Q&A, and additional resource suggestions to enhance your learning on the topic. 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 SCHOOLHOUSE: Free SAT Bootcamps and Other College Access Resources**

Schoolhouse has officially opened registration for a [free SAT Bootcamp](#) for the Saturday, October 5, SAT. Students can sign up now through Wednesday, September 4. Students participating in the four-week SAT Bootcamp receive guidance from a peer tutor familiar with the SAT and has a verified score in the 95th percentile. On average, participants increase their SAT scores by 40 to 55 points. [Create a free account](#) to sign up. [New college admissions workshops](#) run by trained college student tutors are 100% free and will run throughout the fall, covering topics like essay writing and completing college applications.

### **NEW FROM THE U.S. FEDERAL COURTS: Fall 2024 Field Trips and Bill of Rights Day Contest**

**Field Trips:** The U.S. District Court in Indianapolis is once again offering its popular student fieldtrips during fall 2024. Field trips are open to all ages. Full details may be found [here](#).

**Bill of Rights Day Contest:** The 5th Annual Bill of Rights Day art and essay contest sponsored by the U.S. Courts takes place in October 2024. Students in grades five through 12 residing in select states including Indiana will respond to specific prompts pertaining to the Bill of Rights. Students can win up to \$500, and teachers can win prizes too. Contest deadline is Friday, November 1. Contest prompts, complete rules, and a link to the online submission form, can be found [here](#). Questions on either program may be sent to outreach coordinator Contact [Mary Giorgio](#) with any questions.

### **REMINDER FROM THE INDIANA STATE LITERACY ASSOCIATION (ISLA): Fall Literacy Conference**

The Indiana State Literacy Association is excited to host educators for the Fall Literacy Conference in Kokomo at the Indiana University Campus on Saturday, November 9. Keynote speaker, author, and read aloud expert Molly Ness will share key strategies in the morning with breakout sessions to follow for the afternoon. Come join the fun and walk away with literacy tips and strategies to grow your literacy

community. Additional details and registration can be found [here](#). Contact [Dr. Ryan Eckart](#) with any questions.

### **REMINDER FROM THE WABASH VALLEY EDUCATION CENTER (WVEC): Second Annual Literacy Conference - Rolling Out the Red Carpet for Best Literacy Practices**

Come join the fun and walk away with key tips and strategies to grow your expertise with Dr. Jamey Peavler and Dr. Katie McKnight during WVEC's second annual literacy conference, Rolling Out the Red Carpet for Best Literacy Practices. Additional details and registration can be found [here](#). Contact [Melissa Gill](#) with any questions.

### **REMINDER FROM THE INDIANA BRANCH OF THE INTERNATIONAL DYSLEXIA ASSOCIATION (IDA): Indiana Accreditation Symposium**

The Indiana Branch IDA invites all educator preparation programs (EPPs) to attend the Accreditation Symposium hosted at Marian University on Monday, September 21, from 11:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. ET. This free symposium aims to foster collaboration between state EPPs, explain the IDA accreditation process, explore the Structured Literacy approach, and unpack the knowledge and practice standards (KPS) that define the knowledge and skills that all teachers of reading should possess to teach all students to read proficiently. Presenters include local and state experts in the education field. Together, we can make a difference in advancing literacy education for all students. Please RSVP [here](#) by Friday, September 13. Contact [IDA-IN](#) with any questions.

### **REMINDER FROM UNIVERSITY OF NOTRE DAME ADVANCED PLACEMENT TEACHER INVESTMENT PROGRAM (AP-TIP): Annual Fall Conference**

This year, AP-TIP at the University of Notre Dame is pleased to extend a wider invitation to its annual [fall conference](#)—all teachers of AP, dual credit, or early college courses in math, science, and English are encouraged to register for this event.

- Teachers can expect both opportunities to learn from recognized practitioners in a discipline and an emphasis on highly-effective instructional practices that support and challenge all students at the advanced level.
- Teachers are encouraged to invite colleagues across programs with an eye to equivalent courses (e.g. AP Precalculus = College Algebra and Trigonometry).
- The conference is entirely online, and many subjects feature a combination of plenary and collaborative sessions.

The fall conference runs from Tuesday, September 10, through Thursday, September 12, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. ET. To see which subjects are offered each day, check the current list of session topics, and register now, [visit us online](#).

### **REMINDER FROM BUTLER UNIVERSITY: Applications Now Open for the Founder's College**

Butler University introduces an exciting new pathway for Indiana high school students who have high potential for postsecondary success, but because of financial barriers feel college is out of reach. Founder's College at Butler University offers a new, affordable, high-quality two-year degree option right here in Indiana. Applications are now open. The first cohort of students will begin August 2025.

- [Nominate a student](#) you believe meets the Founder's College criteria
- Learn more on our website: [founders.butler.edu](#)

Contact Founders Admissions Director [Donneisha Baker](#) with any questions.

### **REMINDER FROM WARREN ARTS & EDUCATION FOUNDATION & PROJECT REBUILD FOUNDATION: Homeless, Attendance, and Student Pathways Conference**

Educators are invited to the Northwest Indiana 2024, Warren Arts & Education Foundation, and Project Rebuild Foundation Homeless, Attendance, and Student Pathways conference, entitled "Indiana: Finding Solutions for the Future" on Wednesday, September 11, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. CT at the Hard Rock Casino in Gary. More information and registration details can be found [here](#).

### **REMINDER FROM TEACHER INDUSTRY EXPERIENCES IN INDIANA (TIE-IN): Embark on an Exploratory Journey**

Elevate your teaching and ignite your creativity with [TIE-IN](#), an initiative designed to bridge the classroom with the dynamic world of industry. This program, brought to life through a partnership with IDOE and Central Indiana Educational Service Center's Keep Indiana Learning team, is open to all licensed Indiana

educators, including prekindergarten through grade 12 classroom teachers, counselors, media specialists, and instructional coaches. Learn more and register [here](#). Contact [Dr. Christy Hilton](#) with any questions.

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## Weekly Updates

View previous weekly updates from Dr. Katie Jenner here.

## Stay Informed

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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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