



Teacher Newsletter

Monthly Updates from the Indiana Department of Education

February 3, 2025

We know that real impact for students happens at the educator-level. In fact, we have seen time and again when teacher leaders are a catalyst for positive change in schools...whether that means adding student opportunities that did not previously exist...or creating connections with higher education and employers that may bring to light career possibilities that a student would not have otherwise considered or imagined. You (our teachers!) are our difference-makers for students, and this newsletter from the Indiana Department of Education (IDOE) is dedicated to elevating your work and providing new information and resources to help you do what you do best – and that’s serving Indiana’s students.

Educator Pipeline (Attract, Prepare, Retain)

Aspiring Statewide Special Education Teacher (ASSET) Cohort Four Application Now Available
Applications for cohort four of ASSET are now available. ASSET is an approved alternative licensure program delivered by the Indiana Council of Administrators of Special Education (I-CASE) for currently-licensed Indiana teachers to add a special education teaching credential. Completing the program and passing the licensing exam allows educators to add Mild Interventions, Intense Interventions, or both to their existing credentials. More information on this flexible alternative licensure program and registration for cohort four can be found [here](#). Contact the ASSET team via [email](#) or phone at (317) 759-2895 extension 1 with questions.

Teaching & Learning Support

Employability Skills Standards: Public Comment Opens Monday, February 24
Pursuant to Indiana Code (IC) 20-31-3-3, IDOE convened committees representing K-12 and higher education entities, state agencies, and industry and community partners to review and propose updates to the K-12 Employability Skills Standards. The standards are grade banded and organized to reflect alignment with Indiana’s Graduates Prepared to Succeed (GPS) characteristics and skills or traits as outlined in Indiana’s Postsecondary Study. IDOE welcomes constructive, actionable feedback related to these standards during a [public comment period](#) beginning Monday, February 24, through Friday, March 14, to further inform the review process. Reviewers should consider whether standards support students on track for enrollment, employment, and/or enlistment leading to service. Contact IDOE’s [Office of Teaching and Learning](#) with questions.

Indiana Literacy Center

Early Literacy Endorsement Professional Development (PD) and Praxis Voucher Request
Educators who hold an Indiana professional educator license can register [here](#) for flexible [Keys to Literacy options](#). Educators planning to earn Indiana’s Early Literacy Endorsement can follow [this process](#) 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.

Praxis 5205 Test Guidance

Educators using test vouchers (or any payment method) must review information and the checklist before registering for the Praxis 5205 [here](#). Educators using test vouchers (or any payment method) who wish 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.

Assessment Updates

Learning Lab Workshop: Assessment Accommodations: What to Know
Register for [this session on Wednesday, February 26, from 4 to 4:30 p.m. ET](#) to review essential reminders and guidance on assessment accommodations for ILEARN, IREAD, and I AM assessments. This workshop will offer detailed information specific to each assessment, ensuring a smooth and successful test administration. Contact the [Indiana Assessment Help Desk](#) with any questions.

ILEARN Performance Level Descriptor (PLD) Review Committee Application Now Available
IDOE is seeking English/language arts (ELA) and math educators and instructional coaches who serve students in grades 3-8 to participate in the ILEARN PLD Review Committee. The PLD committee will review the current PLDs for all ILEARN ELA and mathematics assessments against research-based criteria and provide recommendations for future improvements, as appropriate.

- The committee will meet via Microsoft Teams from Tuesday, March 18, through Thursday, March 20, from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. ET, and training will be included during the workshop.
- Participants will receive an honorarium of \$480 for their full participation.
- Participants must be located in a secure environment where others cannot view their screen for the entirety of the committee due to test security purposes.

The [application](#) deadline is Friday, February 14. Contact IDOE’s [Office of Student Assessment](#) with any questions.

ILEARN Hand-Scoring Applications Now Open
Educators are invited to apply to score open-ended student responses for the ILEARN assessments this spring. This opportunity will be remote and will occur from Tuesday, April 8, through Friday, May 23, during the ILEARN hand-scoring window. [Applications](#) must be submitted by Friday, March 14. More information can be found in the [FAQ resource](#), webinar [slides](#) and [recording](#), and [flyer](#). Contact the [BC Forward Help Desk](#) with additional questions.

Indiana Learning Lab

February PD with IDOE
February PD with IDOE begins on Wednesday, February 5, at 4 p.m. ET with *The Virtual Speaker: Bring the Expert to Your Students* presented by Todd Shriver, Educator and Instructional Coach from North White School Corporation. View a full list of February 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. January’s workshops are also now available on-demand. Contact IDOE’s [Office of Digital Learning](#) with any questions.

Pre-Service Educator Workshops
IDOE and Indiana University Bloomington have partnered to build computing capacity for pre-service computer science (CS) education. In these sessions, representatives will share how educators preparing to enter into classrooms can implement CS concepts. View a full list of 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.

Additional Professional Development

Microcredential Program for Spring 2025
IDOE’s Office of Title Grants and Support will continue the Microcredential Program for experienced program administrators, which allows them to develop their current practices and participate in ongoing learning and reflection by dedicating four to six hours of work per microcredential at no cost. Two optional check-in meetings will be provided for any needed support. Participants will earn five Professional Growth Plan (PGP) points for each microcredential, as well as a bonus point on the risk assessment. Those interested in participating can join an informational session on Microsoft Teams on [Wednesday, February 5, at 11 a.m. ET](#). Contact [Caitlin Laurino](#) with any questions.

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 educational agencies (LEAs), charter schools, and non-public schools from across the state. This two-day conference on Wednesday, April 16, and Thursday, April 17, will feature keynote speakers and 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 Tuesday, April 15, 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.

Recognition Opportunities

Recommendations Open for Distinguished Educators Recognition
IDOE’s Office of Educator Talent is looking for confidential recommendations of teachers representing the very best educators in Indiana. These emerging leaders must have between five and 15 years of experience, demonstrate leadership beyond the classroom, and positively impact school culture and student achievement. Superintendents and principals may submit recommendations [here](#). Recommendations must be submitted by Friday, February 28. Contact IDOE’s [Office of Educator Talent](#) with any questions.

Additional Opportunities to Recognize Indiana Educators
Throughout the year, numerous opportunities arise nationwide to acknowledge the incredible work of Indiana educators. IDOE’s Office of Educator Talent has developed [this document](#), which will be updated periodically with external opportunities to recognize educators. To submit an educator recognition opportunity not listed, contact IDOE’s [Office of Educator Talent](#).

News from Our Partners

FROM THE ADVANCED PLACEMENT TEACHER INVESTMENT PROGRAM (AP-TIP): Register Now for 2025 Mock Exam Reading
Registration is now available for one of AP-TIP’s most highly-regarded professional development session, which provides a full-length practice test to prepare teachers and students for AP exams. More information on attendance and accommodations can be found [here](#). High ability funding can also be used towards teacher attendance. Contact [Nicole Chase](#) with additional questions.

FROM THE INDIANA ASSOCIATION OF SCHOOL BUSINESS OFFICIALS & INDIANA CHIEF TECHNOLOGY OFFICER (CTO) COUNCIL: Joint Tech Seminar
[Register now](#) for the Joint Tech Seminar from the Indiana Association of School Business Officials and Indiana CTO Council. The seminar will be held on Wednesday, February 19, from 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. ET in Plainfield. Contact [Lauren Mullen](#) with additional questions.

FROM THE CENTRAL INDIANA EDUCATIONAL SERVICE CENTER (CIESC): Teacher Industry Experiences in Indiana (TIE-IN) - Bridging Classrooms and Industry
Elevate your teaching with [TIE-IN](#), a transformative program through a partnership between IDOE and CIESC, connecting educators with real-world industry insights. Open to all licensed Indiana educators, TIE-IN offers three unique opportunities, all of which include a stipend: formal coursework with state universities, personalized externships with industry partners, and immersive single-day visits to diverse businesses. Explore fields like healthcare, engineering, information technology, and more to enrich your curriculum, build professional networks, and create innovative, student-focused projects supported by a vibrant community of practice. Contact [Ryan Murray](#) with any questions.

FROM TEACH INDY: Register for the 2025 Educators Conference
Join the Teach Indy Team at the 2025 Educators Conference at the Ivy Tech Community College Culinary and Conference Center on Saturday, March 1. This year, sessions will dive deep into the heart of Indiana’s classrooms to uncover the most effective teaching strategies. You’ll hear directly from educators who are making a difference every day. Get inspired, learn new techniques, and connect with like-minded professionals. All current and aspiring educators are welcome. Click [here](#) for more information. Contact [Teach Indy](#) with any questions.



Weekly Updates

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

Stay Informed

Did you miss a message? View previous weekly emails [here](#).

Dr. Jenner’s Weekly Update from the Indiana Department of Education is distributed every Friday morning.

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