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INDIANA DEPARTMENT of EDUCATION

Teacher Newsletter

Monthly Updates from the Indiana Department of Education

May 4, 2026

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)

NEW: Public Comment Window for Indiana Educator World Language Standards

A committee of world language educator preparation program representatives and other stakeholders convened to recommend updates to the Indiana Educator Standards for World Languages, including American Sign Language, Classical Languages, and Modern European and East Asian Languages. The draft standards are available for public comment through 5 p.m. ET on Saturday, May 30. Use [this Jotform](#) to access the draft standards and detailed instructions for participating in this process. This input will be used to refine standards, and final recommendations will be presented to the Indiana State Board of Education later this year. Contact [Scott Bogan](#) with any questions.

STEM Support

NEW: Indiana’s Tiered System of Supports Live Series for K-8 Mathematics Slides and FAQ

Educators and administrators unable to attend the Tiered System of Supports Live Series for K-8 Mathematics webinar can now access the slides for sessions held on Monday, [March 23](#) and Monday, [April 13](#). The [FAQ](#) is also now available. Contact IDOE’s [Office of Curriculum and Instruction](#) with any questions.

NEW: Artificial Intelligence (AI) Spotlight Sessions

Join administrators, coaches, teachers, and students from school corporations across Indiana to hear them share their strategies, successes, and challenges related to AI. Join us in the Indiana Learning Lab each day at noon ET from Monday, May 11, through Friday, May 15, to hear their stories. Register to attend [here](#). Contact IDOE’s [Office of Digital Learning](#) with any questions.

NEW: Indiana’s Priorities and Next Steps for Data Science Education

Indiana is prioritizing data science education to prepare students for a workplace and world driven by data. The [Indiana’s Priorities for Data Science](#) report summarizes feedback from Indiana’s Data Science Summit, held in December 2025, and responds to [legislation](#) creating a Data Science Math Pathway. Contact IDOE’s [Office of Curriculum and Instruction](#) with any questions.

Indiana Literacy Center

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

Join IDOE and The Reading League Indiana from noon to 1 p.m. ET on Tuesday, May 19, for the next live Experts Explain series with Judith Hockman and her presentation, “Summary: Explicit, Evidence-Based Instruction.” In this session, participants will learn more about explicit and evidence-based instruction in this culminating session for the series. 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: Universal Reading Screening Guidance 2026-2027

Find the updated universal reading screening guidance including information on dyslexia programming for 2026-2027 [here](#). This guidance includes administering universal reading screening, appropriate interventions for students, Level I diagnostic screening process, and family communication. Please contact IDOE’s [Literacy Center](#) with any questions.

REMINDER: Monthly Data Interpretation Office Hours Acadience Reading Preferred Universal Screener

Acadience Learning, Inc. will host another monthly office hour this school year to support school leaders and educators as they interpret the data from the state’s preferred screener. The next office hour will begin at 10:30 a.m. ET on Wednesday, May 13. Click [here](#) to join. Learn more information by visiting the Indiana Acadience webpage [here](#). Please contact IDOE’s [Literacy Center](#) with any questions.

REMINDER: 2026-2027 Annual K-8 School Reading Plan

[Indiana Code \(IC\) 20-32-8.5](#) and [511 Indiana Administrative Code \(IAC\) 6.2-3.1](#) require all public, charter, and non-public schools, including choice scholarship eligible schools, with students enrolled in kindergarten through grade eight to submit an annual reading plan to IDOE by Tuesday, June 30. IDOE’s Literacy Center released the [2026-2027 annual K-8 reading plan guidance](#). Contact IDOE’s [Literacy Center](#) with additional questions.

Assessment Updates

NEW: ISPROUT Opt-In 2026-2027 Information Webinar

Join IDOE for an ISPROUT informational webinar on [Thursday, May 7, from 1 to 2 p.m. ET](#) to learn about ISPROUT, getting started, training, and how ISPROUT can help you as a program and educator. Click on the date above to register for the webinar.

ISPROUT is required for students with an IEP, children receiving On My Way Pre-K (OMWPK) funds, and programs which received High-Quality Curricular Materials Grant funding in 2025. ISPROUT is also available for all programs serving children from birth through Pre-K. Contact IDOE’s [Office of Assessment](#) with any questions.

REMINDER: Fall 2026 Early Learning Assessment System Opt-In New and Returning– IKRA and ISPROUT

As part of Indiana’s system to measure and support kindergarten readiness, Indiana’s IKRA will be available to all public, charter, and non-public schools as an opt-in assessment for kindergarten students in fall 2026. The [IKRA opt-in window is now open](#) through Friday, May 15. The [ISPROUT opt-in window for students ages birth through five](#) is also open for fall 2026. ISPROUT will continue to be required for children in special education, as well as children utilizing OMWPK funding. Administering ISPROUT is also required for all programs which received High-Quality Curricular Materials Grant funding in 2025, however, any program serving children ages birth through five is able to opt-in. *If you participated in the IKRA or ISPROUT previously, you must still complete an opt-in form for 2026-2027.* Contact IDOE’s [Office of Assessment](#) with any questions.

News From Our Partners

NEW FROM PURDUE UNIVERSITY COMPUTER SCIENCE OUTREACH: 2026 Summer & Fall Computer Science Professional Development Opportunities

Purdue Computer Science Outreach is offering a series of hands-on professional development sessions for educators at all experience levels. Opportunities include beginner sessions for those new to computer science, as well as middle and high school sessions focused on Indiana’s Next Level Programs of Study course: 4565 Computing Foundations for a Digital Age, artificial intelligence, and robotics. All sessions are designed to be practical, classroom-ready, and include take-home resources for teachers. View full details and register at [this link](#). Contact jdthomps@purdue.edu with questions.

NEW FROM NEXTECH: Computing Foundations for a Digital Age Professional Development

This workshop is designed for educators who are preparing to implement NLPS 4565: Computing Foundations for a Digital Age, to support Indiana’s Computer Science graduation requirement. Through guided activities, educators will be introduced to core computer science principles and the expanding role of artificial intelligence in everyday life, while experiencing ready-to-use lessons and strategies that support student engagement and success. Opportunities for stipends and professional growth points are available to educators. More information and registration information is [here](#). Contact kerry@nextech.org with questions.



Additional Resources

- [Educator Licensing](#)
- [Educator Supply/Demand Marketplace](#)
- [Indiana Special Education Assisted Licensure Program \(I-SEAL\)](#)
- [Indiana TEACHERS of English Learners Licensure \(I-TELL\)](#)
- [Indiana STEM Educator Expansion Program \(I-STEM\)](#)
- [Indiana Learning Lab](#)
- [Indiana Literacy Cadre](#)
- [Teacher of the Year](#)

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.

This email was sent by: Indiana Department of Education
100 N. Senate Ave., Indianapolis, IN, 46204 US

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