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Dr. Jenner’s Weekly Update

Weekly Newsletter from the Indiana Department of Education

October 30, 2026

A Message from Dr. Katie Jenner

I hope all of our educators got a good night’s sleep and are fully caffeinated as we kick off this Friday morning before Halloween! Students at schools across the state will undoubtedly be buzzing today as they look forward to trick-or-treating this weekend and all the candy that comes with it. Fortunately for everyone working in our schools (and our parents!), this weekend also comes with an extra hour of sleep as clocks fall back!

Indianapolis was also buzzing with excitement this week as we welcomed 500 leaders and practitioners from government, industry, and academia for the third annual Purdue University + Google AI Summit. A huge shout out to the educators in both K-12 and higher education who are leveraging AI to improve education and strengthen outcomes for students!



Caption: Just a few of my favorite Halloween memories with my twin daughters—who are now juniors in high school!!

As we enjoy the fun of the season, it’s also a great opportunity to celebrate yet another example of how our Indiana schools are expanding opportunities for students...this time through record expansion of the Indiana College Core.

The **Indiana College Core** allows Hoosier students to earn 30 hours of general education credits, the equivalent of a full year of college, at little to no cost before graduating high school. By law, these credits transfer seamlessly to all Indiana public higher education institutions, as well as 11 private institutions that have opted in. This makes tuition more affordable for students and parents and even allows students to graduate early, saving additional money on fees and housing and helping them launch their career even sooner.

This school year, a record 328 Indiana high schools offer the Indiana College Core...*nearly four times* the number of participating high schools just five years ago! Thanks to these efforts, over 300,000 Hoosier students now have access to this affordable college pathway, helping them save on tuition, explore their interests, and take the next steps toward their future.

And we know that students who have access and complete the Indiana College Core see real benefits. They're more likely to enroll in college, demonstrate academic success once they get there, and earn their degree on time or early.

Another major benefit of earning the Indiana College Core is that it fulfills the Credential of Value requirement for the new Enrollment Honors Plus seal, which guarantees acceptance to over 40 Indiana campuses, including all Indiana public higher education institutions and several private institutions.

The expansion of the Indiana College Core reflects the strong collaboration between our K-12 schools and higher education partners. When we work together to create meaningful opportunities for students, we not only help families make college more affordable, but also equip more Hoosiers to achieve their unique goals and contribute to our communities.

Thank you to our school leaders for embracing this opportunity...to our educators for raising their hand to teach these rigorous courses...to our higher education partners for awarding and accepting the Indiana College Core, and of course, to our students and parents for investing in their future.

And as always, thank you for all you do for Indiana students. Have a safe and happy Halloween!

Office of Assessment

REMINDER: Register for Regional PSAT/NMSQT Data and SAT School Day Preparation Workshops

In collaboration with the Indiana Department of Education (IDOE), College Board will host six regional workshops in early December. Each workshop includes a morning (PSAT/NMSQT) and afternoon (SAT School Day) session:

- 9 to 11 a.m. local time: Instructional leadership teams will work with their fall PSAT/NMSQT reports to pinpoint skill gaps, identify students ready for AP courses, and build a 90-day action plan.
- 1 to 3 p.m. local time: Test, Technology, and Services for Students with Disabilities (SSD) coordinators will prepare for the spring 2027 SAT School Day administration.

To learn more and register, view the [event flyer](#). Contact [Kris McAloon](#) at College Board with any questions.

REMINDER: Grades Three to Eight ILEARN Through-Year Mathematics Guidance - Additional Support Materials

Additional materials are now available to support educators, schools, and corporations implementing the [ILEARN Through-Year Mathematics Guidance: Using Checkpoint Data to Identify and Support All Students \(Grades Three-Eight\)](#). [Applying the Data Triangulation](#) Process is a two-page resource that provides a detailed walkthrough of how to apply the data triangulation process after each ILEARN Mathematics Checkpoint administration. The optional [Grades Three-Eight Mathematics Data Triangulation Workbook](#) is also available to further support the triangulation process, guide development of intervention goals and services, and assist with progress monitoring and parent communication. Contact IDOE's [Office of Assessment](#) with questions.

Career and Technical Education (CTE)

REMINDER: 2026-2027 Credentials of Value List

The 2026-2027 Credentials of Value list originally released in May has been updated and can be [found here](#). The list now includes six credentials developed through the Indiana Career Apprenticeship Program (INCAP) initiative. The [joint memo](#) released in conjunction with the original release of the list has been updated with a brief note about these additions. Questions regarding credentials of value can be directed to COV@che.in.gov.

Office of Curriculum and Instruction, Digital Learning, and Kindergarten Readiness

NEW: How Artificial Intelligence (AI) Works - What Everyone Needs to Know Series

Whether you're optimistic about AI's possibilities, approaching it with caution and curiosity, or somewhere in between, knowledge about how AI works is essential. Join Nextech in the Indiana Learning Lab for a series of three sessions exploring AI fundamentals. Sessions are scheduled for 4 p.m. ET in mid November. [Register to attend this series](#). Contact IDOE's [Digital Learning Team](#) with any questions.

NEW: Mathematics Webpage Updates

IDOE recently updated the [Mathematics webpage](#). Updates include a revised Theory of Action and corresponding explanation, expanded Resource Collections with separate sections for grades three through five and grades six through eight, and a new parent and family resources section. In addition, the Mathematics Assessment section has been refreshed with updated links and new resources to support educators, students, and families. Contact IDOE's [Office of Curriculum and Instruction](#) with any questions.

NEW: Virtual High Ability Coordinator Workshop

For those unable to attend the in-person High Ability Coordinator workshops, join IDOE for this virtual session designed to provide essential information, practical resources, and actionable strategies for supporting high ability learners. Whether you are new to the role or looking to refine your practice, this workshop will help you build confidence and strengthen your understanding of effective high ability programming. [Register](#) for this virtual session on Tuesday, November 17, from 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. ET. Contact IDOE's [Office of Curriculum and Instruction: High Ability](#) with any questions.

NEW: Data Science Math Pilot Opportunity for Indiana High Schools

IDOE invites high school principals and leaders to a virtual information session on the upcoming data science math pilot. Each session will provide a high-level overview, implementation timeline, and next steps for potential participation in the pilot. Participating schools will pilot teaching Algebra II taught through a data science lens during the 2027-2028 school year, followed by a fourth-year data science course in 2028-2029. Learn more information about [Indiana's priorities and next steps in data science education](#) and choose the session that works best for you.

- [Tuesday, November 10, at 1 p.m. ET](#)
 - [Thursday, November 12, at 2 p.m. ET](#)
 - [Friday, November 13, at 9 a.m. ET](#)
-

NEW: On-Demand Professional Development

Throughout the school year, IDOE hosts sessions in the Learning Lab on a variety of topics. October's workshops are all available on demand. Access and view the sessions below:

- [Student Tech Team Spotlight: Richmond Community Schools](#)
- [Practical Applications for the Use of Accessibility Switches](#)
- [Charter School Community of Practice - Behavior Management](#)
- [Deep Understanding of Reading Science and Structured Literacy](#)
- [Cultivating Gifted Multilingual Learners: Environments and Instruction that Uncover and Develop Talent](#)

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

REMINDER: Virtual Transition to Kindergarten Summit

Please join us on Wednesday, November 4, from 1 to 2:30 p.m. ET for our annual [Virtual Transition to Kindergarten Summit](#), presented in collaboration with the Indiana Family and Social Services Administration's Office of Early Childhood and Out-of-School Learning and the Head Start State Collaboration Office. You'll hear from nationally renowned expert Laura Bornfreund and a panel of Hoosier educators who will share insights, strategies, and promising practices to support strong kindergarten transitions across Indiana. Before attending, we invite you to complete IDOE's [Kindergarten Model and Self-Assessment](#) to maximize your experience. Learn more and register to attend via the [Transition Summit flyer](#). Contact IDOE's [Office of Assessment](#) with any questions or for more information.

REMINDER: 2026 Indiana Academic Standards for K-12 Mathematics Now Available

The Indiana State Board of Education (SBOE) approved updated K-12 Indiana Academic Standards (IAS) and Content Connectors (CCs) for K-12 Mathematics per the regularly scheduled standards revision cycle pursuant to Indiana Code 20-31-3-2. All updated [IAS](#) and [CCs](#) are now accessible on IDOE's Indiana Academic Standards webpage. IDOE extends special thanks to all educators who

served as committee reviewers throughout this process, as well as all who participated in the public comment phase. Please contact IDOE's [Office of Curriculum and Instruction](#) with any questions.

REMINDER: 2026-2027 STEM Integration Grant

IDOE is pleased to announce the [55 recipients of the 2026-2027 STEM Integration Grant](#). This competitive grant opportunity supports schools and other eligible entities in providing opportunities to develop and implement STEM learning opportunities aligned with [Indiana's Priorities for STEM Education](#) and the [Indiana Academic Standards for Integrated STEM](#). All 2026-2027 STEM Integration Grant recipients should attend the [virtual kick-off meeting](#) on Wednesday, October 28, from 1 to 2 p.m. ET to learn more about management of this grant. This meeting will be recorded for those unable to attend. Contact IDOE's [Office of Curriculum and Instruction](#) with any questions.

REMINDER: Student Thinking in Middle School Mathematics

IDOE will welcome expert educator Ella Herreth on Wednesday, November 4, from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. ET for the last of a three part webinar series designed to support middle school math educators and school leaders. This session will highlight high-impact instructional routines and explore how educators and leaders can use these practices to increase student engagement, strengthen mathematical discourse, support deeper learning, and promote schoolwide instructional improvement. Register through the [Indiana Learning Lab](#). Contact IDOE's [Office of Curriculum and Instruction](#) with any questions.

Office of Educational Options and Quality

NEW: Career Scholarship Account (CSA) Second Fall Payment Disbursement

CSA invoices that were uploaded to your designated Google Drive folder by Friday, October 23, are being processed now. The second CSA disbursement will be disbursed by Friday, November 6. Any invoices received after the Friday, October 23, due date will be processed and included in the third disbursement. For funding timelines and payment schedules, visit the [CSA webpage](#) or contact IDOE's [Choice Programs Team](#).

REMINDER: New Federal Scholarship Tax Credit for Hoosiers - SGO Application LIVE

Governor Mike Braun is encouraging both current and prospective Indiana Scholarship Granting Organizations (SGOs) to take advantage of the new Federal Scholarship Tax Credit by applying now to become an approved SGO. Beginning in 2027, Hoosiers who make charitable donations to approved SGOs can collect up to \$1,700 in federal tax savings for investments made in K-12 scholarships, in addition to any state tax credits they may receive. Before this new federal tax credit takes effect, now is the time to apply to become an approved SGO. Application guidance and a link to apply can be found on IDOE's [SGO webpage](#). Contact IDOE's [Choice Programs Team](#) with any questions.

REMINDER: Federal Scholarship Tax Credit Informational Session for Schools

IDOE will host an informational session for schools on Friday, November 6, at 10 a.m. ET to provide an overview of the new Federal Scholarship Tax Credit program and explain how schools can leverage this opportunity to support Hoosier students. This session will walk participants through program requirements, potential benefits, and next steps for engagement. Please use [the registration link](#) to sign up and pre-submit questions. For more information, visit IDOE's [Scholarship Granting Organization webpage](#). Registration will remain open through Tuesday, November 3. Contact IDOE's [Choice Programs Team](#) with any questions.

REMINDER: Education Scholarship Account (ESA) Second Fall Payment Disbursement

Funding disbursements for schools participating in the Indiana ESA program has been allocated. For participating schools in which parents selected "direct-pay," ESA funds will be deposited by early next week.

REMINDER: Choice Scholarship Fall Payments

Payment letters will be published to the Choice school's Google folder with an Excel file breakdown of their payment installments. Any discrepancies must be reported to IDOE's Office of Educational Options and Quality at choiceschool@doe.in.gov within two weeks from the date of the letter.

Office of Educator Talent and Literacy

NEW: IDOE and Nimble Partnership Webinar - Free Statewide Tools to Recruit and Hire Great Educators

IDOE renewed its partnership with Nimble, continuing to provide a statewide educator job board and

free tools to help districts recruit and hire great educators. Join us for a short webinar to hear results from the 2026 hiring season, success stories from other districts, and what's new in the products. Plus, you'll get next steps to make sure your district is taking full advantage of the free tools before next hiring season. The webinar is a good fit for HR directors, superintendents, and anyone who manages hiring. This webinar will take place on Wednesday, November 18, from 1 to 2 p.m. ET. Click [here](#) to register.

NEW: Preferred Reading Screener Office Hours Recording and Upcoming Sessions

Those unable to attend the recent October Office Hours for Acadience Reading Kindergarten-Grade Six, the beginning-of-year [presentation slides](#), recording, and resources are now available. Access the [recording](#) (passcode: A&7Bin%&) for the session, “ALO Tools and Resources Overview.”

Review the additional materials shared during the meeting:

- [Initial Grouping Suggestions](#)
- [Multi-Select Tool](#)
- [Benchmark Overview](#)
- [Benchmark Status](#)
- [Student List Data View](#)

The next session, “[Acadience Reading Progress Monitoring](#),” will be held on Wednesday, November 18, from 11 a.m. to 12 p.m. ET. Additionally, the final session of the [Acadience Kindergarten-Grade Six Reading: Data-Driven Literacy Instruction series](#), “Data and Mid-Year Readiness,” is coming soon on Wednesday, December 9, from 11 a.m. to 12 p.m. ET. [Register for the live session on the Learning Lab](#). Contact IDOE’s [Literacy Center](#) with any questions.

REMINDER: Keys to Literacy No Cost Professional Development for Early Literacy Endorsement Registration Open

IDOE’s Early Literacy Endorsement Professional Development is available to current, eligible Indiana educators who hold a valid professional educator license and teach in a content area that involves literacy instruction for PK-5 students. Eligible licensed Indiana educators may participate, at no cost, in Keys to Literacy. Space is limited, so [registration is open](#) to first time enrollees. Contact IDOE’s [Literacy Center](#) with any questions.

REMINDER: Early Literacy Professional Development Approval and Praxis Voucher Request

Educators who need to submit a request to verify completion of an approved 80 hours can continue to follow the process outlined [here](#). Educators requesting a one-time Praxis voucher can follow the same process, based on availability. Educators must schedule their exam within six months of receiving their voucher. Once the professional development has been approved, IDOE will issue a confirmation letter that will be used by the educator to complete the early literacy endorsement application in LVIS. An FAQ with additional information regarding the early literacy endorsement can be found [here](#), and we will continue to include additional questions and answers as they arise. Contact IDOE’s [Literacy Center](#) with any questions.

Office of School Finance

REMINDER: Membership Conflict Petition Process

Please read [this memo](#) regarding the membership conflict petition process. Friday, November 6, is the deadline for a school corporation or charter school to file a petition. Contact IDOE’s [Office of School Finance](#) with any questions.

Office of Special Education, English Learning, and Migrant Education

NEW: English Learner (EL) Essentials Professional Learning Community (PLC) on Tuesday, November 10

Directors and leaders of EL programs are invited to join IDOE in an ongoing PLC during the 2026-2027 school year. This PLC provides a space to connect with colleagues across the state, access timely program information, and bring questions. The next session of the year will be held on Tuesday, November 10, from 3:30 to 4:30 p.m. ET. This meeting will offer a deep dive into EL monitoring and compliance tools. Participants will explore key monitoring indicators regarding EL service. The meeting link and additional details can be found on the [IDOE EL Professional Development Opportunities Calendar](#). For questions, please contact IDOE’s [Office of English Learning and Multilingual Education](#).

NEW: Accommodation Updates to Data Exchange (DEX) and Test Information Distribution Engine (TIDE)

IDOE and PowerSchool continue to collaborate on resolving several known accommodation-related items in DEX/TIDE, including accommodation visibility and alignment, accommodations for students with both IEPs and ILPs, translated accommodations for students with an ILP, and documents appearing in the incorrect school year.

Below is the current guidance for schools:

- Verify accommodations are present in the student's IEP Accommodations flyout and the **studentAccommodations** Ed-Fi Export report. It should be noted that this report requires a minimum of an Editor security group to be visible.
- Check accommodations directly in TIDE rather than relying on the "Successful Post to DEX" status.
- Continue reporting cases where accommodations appear correctly in Special Programs but are missing or incomplete in DEX/TIDE.
- The earlier IREAD Text-to-Speech ILP issue has been resolved.

PowerSchool and IDOE are actively working on these items and will provide additional updates as they become available.

REMINDER: Virtual WIDA Workshop - Exploring WIDA ACCESS for Kindergarten

IDOE's English Learning and Multilingual Education team is hosting a virtual workshop, facilitated by WIDA, titled *Exploring WIDA ACCESS for Kindergarten*. This workshop will support educators in understanding the WIDA ACCESS for Kindergarten assessment by reviewing its new and updated features. The supplementary Canvas component to this live webinar will provide helpful links, documents, and resources to support test administration. The session will occur Thursday, November 12, from 3:30 to 5 p.m. ET. [Registration via Jotform](#) is required and limited to three individuals per district. For more information, view the [Indiana EL Professional Development \(PD\) Opportunities Calendar](#). Contact IDOE's [Office of English Learning and Multilingual Education](#) with questions.

Office of Title Grants and Support

NEW: Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) 2024 Updated Deadlines

All local education agencies (LEAs) received a memo on Friday, October 9, regarding an extension to the FFY 2024 period of allowability for Title II, III, and IV. The updated encumbrance date for FFY 2024 is now September 30, 2027. If any FFY 2024 funds have not been encumbered to date, LEAs may continue to encumber funds and submit amendments through September 2027. If you have any questions regarding this extension, please contact your assigned federal grant specialist. Please note, the grant cycle for FY 2026 Title I funds will continue on its existing schedule.

REMINDER: Learning Lab Technical Assistance (TA) Collection

Recent coffee chat and quarterly meeting recordings are now available through the Indiana [Learning Lab's Federal Programs: Coffee Chats and Quarterly Meetings Collection](#). Please contact TitleI@doe.in.gov with any questions.

News from Our Partners

NEW FROM THE DYSLEXIA INSTITUTE OF INDIANA: Until Everyone Can Read Literacy Summit for Older Students

Register for the last two virtual sessions of the free [Until Everyone Can Read Virtual Literacy Summit for Older Students](#). The first session includes a presentation from Dr. Stephanie Stollar on providing the right level of support for each student in the secondary setting. This session will take place on Saturday, November 14, from 9 to 10:30 a.m. ET. The final session includes a presentation from Dave Stevenson, Liz Kline, and Elfrieda Heibert on supporting struggling adolescent readers and will take place on Saturday, December 12, from 9 to 10:30 a.m. ET. Contact [Katie Eynon](#) for more information.

NEW FROM KEYS TO LITERACY: “Leadership Deserves PD Too - Closing the Professional Learning Gap” Webinar

Pati Montgomery will share and discuss the importance of professional learning opportunities in literacy leadership on Monday, November 9, from 12:30 to 1:30 p.m. ET. Pati's talk will highlight the tenets of strong, evidence-aligned professional learning that equips K-5 leaders with the knowledge and tools they need to champion literacy in their schools. Register for the webinar [here](#). Please contact [Keys to Literacy](#) with any questions.

NEW FROM THE INDIANA STATE MUSEUM: Celebrate Native American Heritage Month

Celebrate Native American Heritage Month at the Indiana State Museum! Native American Heritage Day is on Thursday, November 12, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. ET. This free event for K-12 students is a special day of learning and exploring Native Americans’ continued impact in the community, Indiana, and beyond through performances and activity stations from Native People and community organizations. For more information or to book your field trip visit the [Indiana State Museum webpage](#) or email education@indianamuseum.org.

NEW FROM THE INDIANA ASSOCIATION FOR THE GIFTED (IAG): 2026 Annual Conference and Registration

Join more than 1,200 educators, high ability coordinators, administrators, and school counselors on Monday, December 14, and Tuesday, December 15, at the JW Marriott Indianapolis for “Ignite the Spark: Helping Gifted Minds Shine.” The conference features more than 100 breakout sessions and opportunities to learn and connect with colleagues supporting high ability students across Indiana. [Learn more here and register for IAG 2026](#). Please contact [IAG](#) with any questions.

NEW FROM ND PACT (formerly AP-TIP): Applications for Cohort 15 Now Open

Notre Dame Partnership with Advanced Coursework Teachers (ND PACT) invites Indiana public high schools to apply for Cohort 15! We partner with AP and dual credit teachers in English, math, and science to expand access to advanced courses and increase student enrollment and success through high-quality professional development and ongoing instructional support. There is no cost to apply or participate. As a fully grant-funded program, ND PACT provides teacher stipends and covers travel expenses for all program events. Application information is available [here](#). Contact [Nikki Chase](#) for additional assistance.



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