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Dr. Jenner's Weekly Update

Weekly Newsletter from the Indiana Department of Education

October 2, 2026

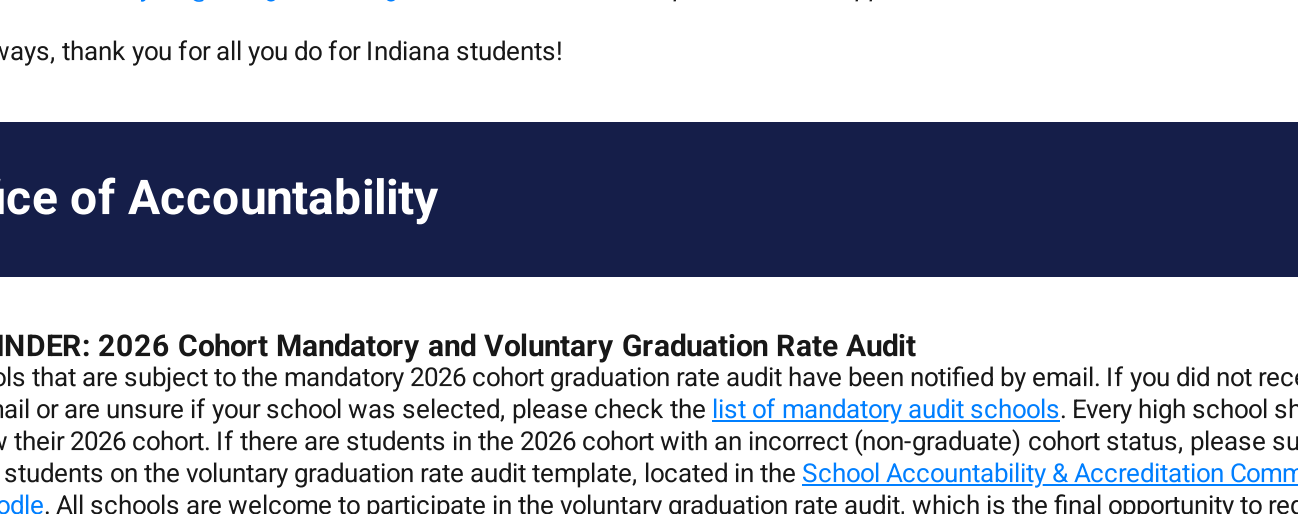
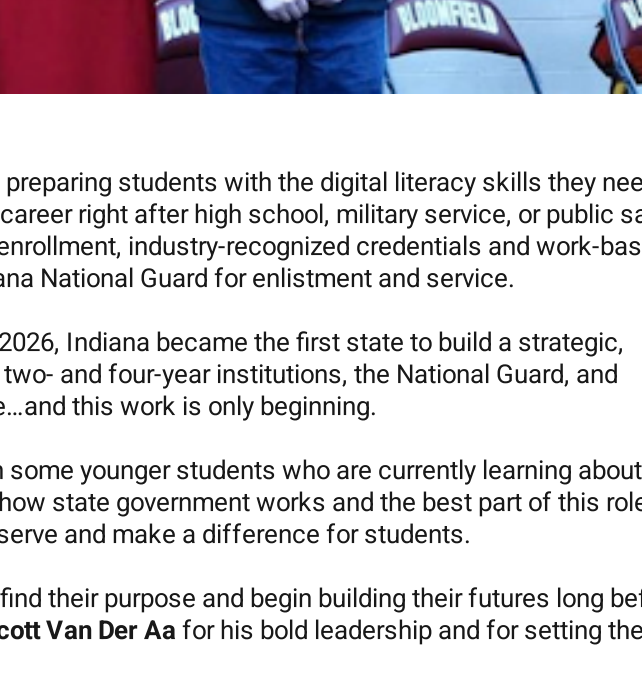
A Message from Dr. Katie Jenner

Across the country, Cybersecurity Awareness Month is observed throughout October. Yesterday to kick things off in Indiana, Governor Braun issued a proclamation underscoring just how important cybersecurity has become for all Hoosiers, including businesses, governments, K-12 schools, students, and more.

Last week, Governor Braun and I had the opportunity to see this work up close in Greene County, where our very own Bloomfield Middle and High School is creating extraordinary opportunities for students. In a district of less than 900 students, Bloomfield is a leader in cybersecurity education, preparing students for high-demand careers and strengthening the security of our state and nation.

During the event, we visited **Michelle Mattox's** STEM classroom where students showed what they're learning in PLTW Cybersecurity and AP Cybersecurity. The students walked us through how to use modern cyber-protection techniques like generating strong passwords and using multi-factor authentication. They also showed us how to detect and outsmart digital threats and stop the spread of malware.

Seeing it first-hand it became increasingly clear that what's happening in Bloomfield matters far beyond Indiana. This was reinforced by the various national partners who assembled at this rural Indiana district to see their work in action, including College Board President Jeremy Singer and President and CEO of PLTW, David Dimmett.



What makes this pathway so cutting edge and unique is how it's preparing students with the digital literacy skills they need, regardless of whether their dreams include college, a rewarding career right after high school, military service, or public safety. Specifically, Bloomfield students can earn college credit toward enrollment, industry-recognized credentials and work-based learning toward employment, and a direct connection to the Indiana National Guard for enlistment and service.

With the launch of the Indiana Cybersecurity Partnership in May 2026, Indiana became the first state to build a strategic, military-aligned cybersecurity pathway connecting high schools, two- and four-year institutions, the National Guard, and employers. In Bloomfield, we saw what that looks like in practice...and this work is only beginning.

As the event wrapped up, we also had an opportunity to visit with some younger students who are currently learning about government and civics. They had a ton of great questions about how state government works and the best part of this role -- which as educators, we all know the answer...the opportunity to serve and make a difference for students.

It was truly incredible to see how Bloomfield is helping students find their purpose and begin building their futures long before high school graduation. A huge shoutout to Superintendent **Dr. Scott Van Der Aa** for his bold leadership and for setting the example for what's possible in every community across Indiana.

If you're interested in learning more about bringing this opportunity to your community, check out additional information [here](#), and reach out indianacyber@collegeboard.org to be connected with implementation support.

As always, thank you for all you do for Indiana students!

Office of Accountability

REMINDER: 2026 Cohort Mandatory and Voluntary Graduation Rate Audit
Schools that are subject to the mandatory 2026 cohort graduation rate audit have been notified by email. If you did not receive an email or are unsure if your school was selected, please check the [list of mandatory audit schools](#). Every high school should review their 2026 cohort. If there are students in the 2026 cohort with an incorrect (non-graduate) cohort status, please submit those students on the voluntary graduation rate audit template, located in the [School Accountability & Accreditation Community in Moodle](#). All schools are welcome to participate in the voluntary graduation rate audit, which is the final opportunity to request a change to the 2026 cohort. The mandatory and voluntary graduation rate audits will be open through Monday, October 26. Find more information in the [2026-2027 School Accountability Reference Guide](#). Contact IDOE's [Office of School Accountability](#) with any questions.

REMINDER: October Certification Course Outcomes
October Certification will open Monday, October 6, and runs through Friday, October 9. Beginning with the October 2026 Course Outcomes collection, Credit Corrections will now be included in the validation for this dataset. Only Course Outcomes identified with the available Summer School method credit types or Credit Correction method credit types ([see descriptors](#)) will be validated. This is a final opportunity to validate and certify Summer School outcomes for 2025-2026 reimbursement and Accountability purposes, as well as any necessary Credit Corrections from prior years for consideration in the Accountability calculation. Reporting Guidance, [How to Report Credit Corrections](#), has been posted in the Knowledge Hub. Data Reporting Support will first prioritize addressing all [help tickets](#) that were created prior to Thursday, October 1, and make every attempt to address as many support tickets placed after as possible before certification sign off closes on Friday, October 9.

Office of Assessment

NEW: Advance Placement (AP) Coordinators Can Verify Student Test Numbers (STNs) in AP Registration and Ordering
Under Indiana's new student-centered accountability model, AP exam and PSAT/NMSQT results are used in [Indiana's state accountability calculations](#). To support accurate reporting for all AP and PSAT/NMSQT assessments, beginning with the current school year, schools must ensure that each student's STN is included during the assessment registration process. This process differs by assessment, so be sure to review both sections of [this updated guidance](#) from College Board, which now includes new guidance on how to include STNs for students who have already registered for AP exams, and how AP coordinators can check that students have provided their STN. AP coordinators can verify that students have provided their STN via MyAP by downloading the Student Roster. From the Students page in AP Registration and Ordering, AP coordinators can download a list of all students by clicking Download Student Roster. See instructions on page 77 of the [AP Coordinator Manual](#). Contact IDOE's [Office of School Accountability](#) with accountability model questions and [College Board](#) with any technical questions.

REMINDER: K-2 Universal Mathematics Screener Guidance - Additional Support Materials
Additional materials are now available to support educators, schools, and corporations implementing the [Universal Mathematics Screener Guidance for Kindergarten through Grade Two: Applying the Data Triangulation Process \(K-2\)](#) is a two-page resource that outlines suggested grade-level numeracy standards and provides a detailed walkthrough of how to apply the data triangulation process after each administration of the Universal Mathematics Screener. The optional [K-2 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.

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

NEW: K-12 Mathematics Educators Needed for High-Quality Curricular Materials (HQCM) Review Committees
IDOE's Office of Curriculum and Instruction is recruiting interested K-12 mathematics educators for committees that will review core curricular materials submitted by curriculum providers and aligned with the 2026 Indiana Academic Standards for K-12 Mathematics. Interested educators should complete and submit [this form](#) by 11:45 p.m. ET on Friday, October 16, to be considered for this collaborative opportunity. IDOE will review all applications and notify selected participants in late October. A live virtual training will be provided for all confirmed educator reviewers. Curricular materials approved during this review cycle will be recommended for inclusion on IDOE's HQCM Advisory List for K-12 STEM for use beginning with the 2027-2028 school year. Contact IDOE's [Office of Curriculum and Instruction](#) with any questions.

NEW: 2026-2027 High Ability Program Grant Next Steps Webinar
The 2026-2027 High Ability Program Grant is designed to support all traditional public and charter schools in identifying and providing services for high ability students in kindergarten through grade 12. High Ability coordinators and district administrators are encouraged to attend the Next Steps training webinar on Wednesday, October 28, at 3:30 p.m. ET. This session will walk through how to use Euna to submit final reports, cash requests, and budget amendments. Use [this link](#) to join the webinar. Contact IDOE's [Office of Curriculum and Instruction: High Ability](#) with any questions.

NEW: Artificial Intelligence (AI) On-Demand Session Now Available
As educators continue to explore actionable strategies for strengthening AI literacy and responsible use in their professional workflows, [this on-demand session](#) presented by Hunter Hickman from Rensselaer High School, provides practical tips as a user and professional educator in the age of AI. Contact IDOE's [Digital Learning Team](#) with any questions and explore the [live calendar of events](#) for future workshops.

NEW: Nine Dials of Mathematics Word Problem Complexity Resource
A new framework, the [Nine Dials of Mathematics Word Problem Complexity](#) is now available for mathematics educators and coaches in grades three through eight. This resource provides a framework for thinking about mathematics word problem complexity, identifying nine characteristics that can be adjusted to move a problem along the simple-to-complex continuum. This framework provides a concrete, statewide vocabulary for intentionally designing, diagnosing, and differentiating word problems. Contact IDOE's [Office of Assessment](#) with questions.

NEW: 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 [here](#). Contact IDOE's [Office of Assessment](#) with questions or for more information.

Office of Educational Options and Quality

NEW: October Office Hours
Join us on Tuesday, October 13, for the first fall session of the monthly office hours. There will be two session timeframes, a morning session at 9 a.m. ET and an afternoon session at 1 p.m. ET, both hosted via Microsoft Teams. The session will cover topics such as the October payment, the appeals process, Period 2 applications, and more! No registration is required to attend office hours, and the link to join can be found in the Non-Public School Community in Moodle.

NEW: Choice Schools Contact Form
Please ensure all contact information is up to date in Data Exchange (DEX), as this is where Choice specialists pull contact information for your school. If there is someone in addition to the contacts reported in DEX who you would like to receive all messages, or messages with specific content, you may add them via [this form](#). The form also is posted in the Non-Public School Community in Moodle.

REMINDER: Choice Scholarship Fall Payments
To be eligible to receive a student payment in the second fall payment, every student is required to have Membership and Enrollment data certified by Friday, October 9, and a signed Parent and School Signature form uploaded by Monday, October 19. Any student missed in the first fall payment will be paid in the second fall payment as long as the required data is reported for the student in Data Exchange by Thursday, October 1, (census date) and the Parent and School Signature form is uploaded to the Choice Scholarship Student Application tile by the Monday, October 19 deadline.

Upon approval of the Choice Scholarship application, the Parent and School Signature form can be found on the second page of a student's estimated award letter in the Choice Scholarship Student Application tile. The Parent and School Signature form is available as soon as the student's application is submitted and approved. The link to upload the form is available in the student application and will remain open through Monday, October 19.

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. Appeals will be reviewed by the Choice team for October payment only. No appeal will be accepted for the September payment and those accounts will be reconciled in the October payment. Further details on the appeal process will be provided closer to the October payment disbursement date.

Office of Educator Talent and Literacy

NEW: Preferred Reading Screener Recordings
The next two webinars in the [Acadience Kindergarten-Grade Six Reading: Data-Driven Literacy Instruction](#) series are now available. Educators can access these on-demand resources directly within the Indiana Learning Lab:

1. [Targeted Literacy Action: Progress Monitoring and Grouping](#)
2. [State Guidance in Action: Data-Driven Reflection and Adjustments](#)

To conclude the series, please [register](#) for the live session, "Data & Mid-Year Readiness," scheduled for Wednesday, December 9, from 11 a.m. to 12 p.m. ET. Contact IDOE's [Literacy Center](#) with any questions.

Office of Technology

NEW: October is Cybersecurity Awareness Month - Three Quick Wins
It's Cybersecurity Awareness Month! Here are three resources to utilize:

1. KnowBe4 has made a [free Cybersecurity Awareness Month Resource Kit](#) to use with your team for the month in order to raise awareness.
2. No-cost cybersecurity assessments are currently available for all the Indiana University and Purdue University [Cybertrack program](#). Cybersecurity assessments are required for all public schools and school corporations every three years beginning July 1, 2027 in order to fulfill Indiana Code (IC) 4-13.1-4-8.
3. [CrowdStrike Falcon Complete](#) is available for no-cost through April 2027 for all staff workstations and servers for all public schools and school corporations.

Office of School Finance

REMINDER: Common School Loans
IDOE's Office of School Finance will accept applications for construction and technology common school loans from corporations, charter schools, and school corporation career and technical education schools through Friday, October 16. Petitions must be submitted to IDOE by this date to be considered. The application and other details can be found in the [Public School Finance Community in Moodle](#) under Common School Funds, then under Fall. Contact IDOE's [Office of School Finance](#) with any questions.

Office of School Nurse

REMINDER: School Nurses Resources
Please share the below resources with your school nurse.

[IDOE School Health Webpage](#)

- A school nurse's first stop for essential information, including instructions for creating a Moodle account, how to register to receive the school nurse newsletters and announcements, as well as information about bloodborne pathogens, concussions, health laws, vision and hearing screening guidelines, reports, stock emergency procedures, and sudden cardiac arrest.

[IDOE Moodle Education Platform](#)

- Provides online courses developed specifically for school nurses (RNs).
- The School Nurse Community - contains folders filled with links and documents on specific school nurse topics, such as chronic diseases (asthma, diabetes, seizures, severe allergies, etc.), creating IHPs, delegation, FERPA, stock emergency medications, sample policies and forms, oxygen, service animals, school nurse evaluation tools, private duty nurses, the Indiana School Nurse Manual, and more.
- An account is needed. Instructions for creating an account can be found [here](#).

[Vision and Hearing Screenings](#)

- Visual acuity screenings are required for traditional public and charter schools with students in kindergarten or grades one, three, five, and eight. Procedures for completing these screenings can be found in the Indiana Vision Screening Guidelines. Modified Clinical Technique (MCT) screenings conducted by an optometrist or ophthalmologist are required for traditional public and charter schools with students in kindergarten or grade one. Information about the MCT screening can be found [here](#).
- Hearing screenings are required for public and charter schools with students in grades one, four, seven, and 10. Procedures for completing these screenings can be found in the Indiana Hearing Screening Guidelines. Schools are highly encouraged to complete the vision and hearing screenings in the fall.

[Indiana Association of School Nurses Annual Fall Conference](#)

- This conference is specifically intended for school nurses, with speakers and content targeted to the most pressing issues in school nursing. It will be held on Monday, November 9, to Tuesday, November 10 at the Embassy Suites and Conference Center in Noblesville. For more information and to register, please click [here](#).

Office of Special Education, English Learning, and Migrant Education

NEW: Early Childhood Community of Practice
Join IDOE's Office of Special Education for the first Early Childhood Community of Practice of the 2026-2027 school year on Thursday, October 15, from 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. ET. The focus of this session will be on local practices in transition from First Steps. To prepare for the session, please bring your local policies and procedures related to transition or your evaluation data from Special Programs from the last school year. [Join the event via Microsoft Teams](#) and email specialeducation@doe.in.gov with any questions.

NEW: Virtual English Learning and Multilingual Education will host a virtual EL Leadership Meeting on Thursday, October 29
IDOE's Office of English Learning and Multilingual Education will host a virtual EL Leadership Meeting on Thursday, October 29, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. ET. This meeting is intended for Indiana K-12 EL leaders and administrators. The first two hours will include updates and interactive content on timely EL topics. The final hour will be reserved as an open Q&A session for attendees who wish to remain online for additional support. This session will be held via Microsoft Teams, and registration is required to receive the meeting link. For more information and the link to register, view the [Indiana EL Professional Development Opportunities Calendar](#). Contact IDOE's [Office of English Learning and Multilingual Education](#) with any questions.

REMINDER: 2026-2027 Certificate of Multilingual Proficiency Participation Registration Now Open
The Certificate of Multilingual Proficiency (CoMP), Indiana's Seal of Literacy, is awarded to high school seniors who demonstrate high levels of proficiency in English and another language. It is a great way to celebrate students' achievement in world languages. School corporations or nonpublic schools intending to participate in Indiana's CoMP must renew their registration annually. Those wanting to participate for the 2026-2027 school year must sign up using [this form](#) by March 31, 2027. For more information, see the [Certificate of Multilingual Proficiency webpage](#). This [data template](#) can be used to track student progress and assist with data reporting at the end of the year. Contact IDOE's [Office of English Learning and Multilingual Education](#) with any questions.

Office of Title Grants and Support

NEW: Indiana's Returning Education to the States Waiver - Title II/IV Consolidation Pilot
As part of Indiana's Returning Education to the States Waiver, the U.S. Department of Education (USED) has authorized Indiana to pilot consolidation of Title II-A and Title IV-A funding streams for up to 15 percent of Indiana LEAs. This pilot aims to reduce administrative burden and expand innovative approaches that support improved student outcomes. Please complete [this survey](#) by Thursday, October 8, to affirm that your LEA would like to be considered for participation in the pilot. This will help shape and support effective implementation. Please refer to the [September Quarterly Meeting recording](#) for additional information.

NEW: October Coffee Chat
Join IDOE's Title Grants and Support team for the October Coffee Chat at 10 a.m. ET on Thursday, October 29, for an informative session regarding grant closeout processes. The session will be recorded and shared in the Indiana Learning Lab. Please ensure attendees register [here](#) as there will not be a regular meeting link. Contact Title@doe.in.gov with any questions.

NEW: Cohort 13 21st Century Community Learning Centers (CCLC) Awards
IDOE is currently reviewing applications for Cohort 13 of the 21st CCLC program and will share additional information about award status as soon as possible. Contact OSTProgram@doe.in.gov with any questions.

Indiana Commission for Higher Education

NEW: 2027-2028 Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) is Now Open
The [2027-2028 FAFSA](#) is now open for students, providing an opportunity to access Indiana's \$400+ million in state financial aid and over \$1 billion in federal aid. The 2027-2028 FAFSA includes a new feature - Real Time Processing. Real Time Processing allows students to view their confirmed Student Aid Index, Federal Pell Grant eligibility information, and any error code(s) immediately upon filing their FAFSA. State financial aid, such as the Frank O'Bannon Grant or 21st Century Scholars award and institutional aid will still require additional time to be processed and awarded. Students are encouraged to complete the form by the state's priority deadline of April 15, 2027. For assistance contact your region's [Outreach Coordinator](#) or email INvestEd.

News from Our Partners

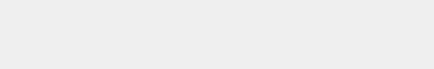
NEW FROM THE HOOSIER EDUCATIONAL COMPUTER COORDINATORS (HECC): Technology Coordinator of the Year and Annual Conference Information
Nominations for the HECC 2026 Technology Coordinator of the Year Award (TCOY) are now open through Friday, October 23, at 5 p.m. ET. This recognition honors an exceptional K-12 technology leader who demonstrates excellence in advancing learning through effective technology leadership. Eligible nominations must be submitted by a colleague or supervisor using the [2026 TCOY Nomination Form](#).

Additionally, [registration is now open](#) for the 2026 HECC Conference for the 40th anniversary of the organization. The conference will be held in the Crown Plaza Union Station in downtown Indianapolis from Wednesday, November 11, to Friday, November 13. Register for incredible technology professional development, over 135 exhibitors, and special 40th anniversary events.

NEW FROM WABASH VALLEY EDUCATION CENTER (WVEC): Annual Multilingual Conference
WVEC's [Annual Multilingual Conference](#) includes two dynamic days of learning on Wednesday, November 4, and Thursday, November 5, focused on building strong instructional foundations that help multilingual learners thrive. Explore practical, high impact strategies to support language development, increase student engagement, and use data to drive meaningful growth. Whether you're a teacher, coach, or leader, you'll leave with the tools and clarity to cultivate language, elevate student voice, and support lasting success. Learn with experts Valentina Gonzalez and Cristina Sizemore. Contact jennifer.fry with questions.

REMINDER FROM INDIANA YOUTH INSTITUTE: Local College and Career Connects
Indiana Youth Institute (IYI), in partnership with regional partners, will host a series of no-cost Local College and Career Connects events this fall. These events are designed to strengthen local college and career readiness efforts and will bring together youth-serving professionals, educators, school counselors, higher education representatives, workforce development leaders, employers, and community partners to explore local priorities, share resources and promising practices, strengthen partnerships, and identify actionable next steps for supporting young people. All youth serving professionals are welcome to attend. Each event will run from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. local time and lunch will be provided for all registered participants. Find dates, locations, and [register on IYI webpage](#). Contact Nathan.Foor with any questions.

REMINDER FROM THE INDIANA CAREER APPRENTICESHIP PATHWAY (INCAP): School Counselor Toolkit
INCAP is a new education and training pathway that combines classroom learning and paid on-the-job training to prepare Hoosiers for in-demand careers. To help schools better understand and implement INCAP, you can find an all-new robust online toolkit, which includes details on offering INCAP to your students, information about 2027-2028 apprenticeship occupations, sample journeys that demonstrate how students move through their program, and example schedules with course codes and diploma seal requirements. Find the school toolkit [here](#). Have questions about INCAP? Reach out to your regional INCAP Connector [here](#).



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