



Dr. Jenner's Weekly Update

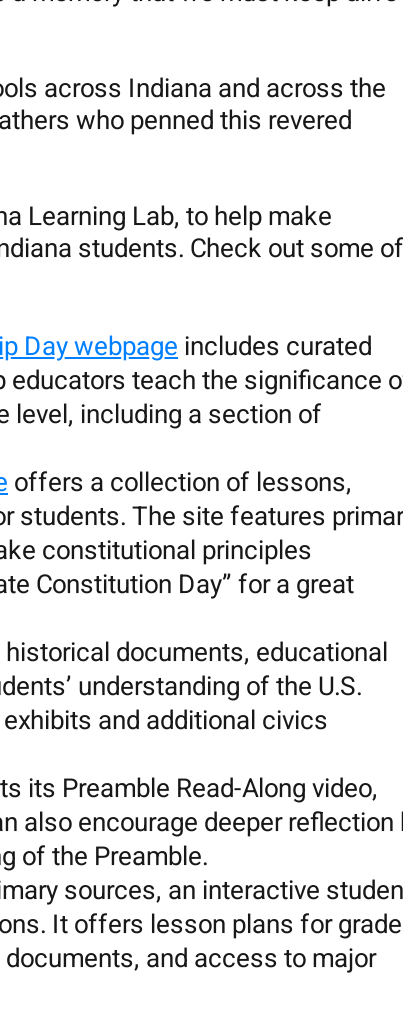
Weekly Newsletter from the Indiana Department of Education

September 11, 2026

A Message from Dr. Katie Jenner

Twenty-five years ago today, our Nation withstood one of the darkest days in our history. Through an unthinkable act of terrorism, 2,977 lives were lost, and America was changed forever. Often when I think about that day, I'm reminded of the Alan Jackson song, "Where Were You (When the World Stopped Turning)." Probably like many of you, I still remember exactly where I was when the world stopped turning. And even though we watched the attacks unfold in real-time, to this day, it is difficult to comprehend something so evil. I also vividly remember the selfless acts of heroism carried out by our first responders and everyday Americans.

For us, September 11, 2001 remains a painful memory. For students in our K-12 schools today – who did not experience this as a lived memory – it is an essential part of their history education. As we teach the next generation about this day, we uphold the commitment to *Never Forget*. We help students understand the importance of honoring those who lost their lives and recognizing that the radical terrorism behind these attacks has no place in our world.



Yet in the face of this tragedy, America's strength and exceptionalism shined through. What ultimately defined 9/11 was not the terror and destruction...it was the way we rallied as Americans. In the days and weeks that followed, we were united in our love for our Country and our fellow citizens...and the absolute best of America was on full display. This is also a memory that we must keep alive for today's students.

Next Thursday (September 17) is also Constitution Day...a time when schools across Indiana and across the country commemorate the signing of our U.S. Constitution, the Founding Fathers who penned this revered document, and the rights and ideals enshrined for every U.S. citizen.

To support this work, our team has curated a set of resources in the Indiana Learning Lab, to help make Constitution Day as informative, engaging, and impactful as possible for Indiana students. Check out some of the resources below...

- The U.S. Department of Education's [Constitution Day and Citizenship Day webpage](#) includes curated lesson plans, multimedia resources, and historical resources to help educators teach the significance of the U.S. Constitution. Resources are organized by audience or grade level, including a section of materials for families.
- The National Constitution Center's [Constitution Day resources page](#) offers a collection of lessons, videos, and interactive activities that bring the Constitution to life for students. The site features primary sources, an FAQ document, and "Constitution 101" courses that make constitutional principles accessible and engaging. Check out the "Six Great Ways to Celebrate Constitution Day" for a great starting point!
- The [National Archives' Constitution Day page](#) offers a collection of historical documents, educational activities, and multimedia resources centered on strengthening students' understanding of the U.S. Constitution. Visitors can "sign" the Constitution and access virtual exhibits and additional civics resources.
- The U.S. Courts' [Constitution Day and Citizenship Day page](#) highlights its Preamble Read-Aloud video, designed to help groups recite the Preamble together. Educators can also encourage deeper reflection by showing a video in which high school students discuss the meaning of the Preamble.
- The Library of Congress' [Constitution Day page](#) provides curated primary sources, an interactive student e-book, and teacher-ready guides drawn from its extensive collections. It offers lesson plans for grades six through 12, activities connecting constitutional text to historical documents, and access to major Library of Congress online collections.

As we celebrate Constitution Day, I encourage schools to share your unique celebrations on social media so that we can continue to elevate your good and important work!

Thank you for all that you do to foster informed, engaged, and patriotic citizens...and for all that you do for our Indiana students.

Important Announcements

REMINDER: Governor's Fitness Test

September marks School Fitness Month in Indiana, part of Governor Mike Braun's Make Indiana Healthy Again initiative. Regular physical activity supports students' overall health, boosts confidence, and improves focus. Walking, exploring a new park, or biking one of Indiana's many trails are simple ways to increase movement and discover all the unique parts of our state. To kick off School Fitness Month, check out the newly developed [Governor's Fitness Test](#)! Physical education teachers are encouraged to develop both goals and time expectations that are appropriate for each age group. Schools may choose to develop student-level goals based on each student's unique needs and abilities.

Office of Assessment

NEW: IREAD Communication Guidance for Incoming Kindergarten Students

Per state statute, the Indiana Department of Education (IDOE) provides schools with language to notify kindergarten students' parents/families of early intervention and screening supports that will be available to their child to help them read by the end of third grade, as well as the retention requirement if they do not pass IREAD after multiple test administration opportunities. This language can be found [here](#). Schools must provide this communication to kindergarten parents/families by Thursday, October 1, annually. Contact IDOE's [Office of Student Assessment](#) or the [Literacy Center](#) with any questions.

REMINDER: 2026-2027 School Year Assessment Administration for Non-Enrolled Students

Indiana Code 20-19-3-45 requires IDOE to annually establish a list of traditional public and charter schools that will administer state-sponsored assessments to homeschooled and non-public school students. State-sponsored assessments include AP, PSAT/NMSQT, SAT, ACT, CLT, and ASVAB. All traditional public and charter schools should complete this [questionnaire](#) by Friday, September 18. Responses will be used to create a resource with school contact information for homeschool and non-public school students needing access to state-sponsored assessments. Contact IDOE's [Office of Student Assessment](#) with any questions.

REMINDER: Include Student Test Numbers (STNs) during AP and PSAT Registration

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. Review both sections of [this guidance](#) from College Board, as the process differs by assessment, and share with the appropriate staff.

IDOE and College Board will provide forthcoming guidance for students and schools who may have already registered for AP exams without including STNs. For any current senior who took either assessment in a previous school year, IDOE will manually match STNs based on available AP and PSAT assessment student data. Contact IDOE's [Office of School Accountability](#) with accountability model questions and [College Board](#) with any technical questions.

REMINDER: ILEARN Mathematics Checkpoint Teacher Reporting System (TRS)/Cambium Assessments, Inc. (CAI) Signal Mockups

IDOE recently shared the new CAI Signal mockups that are specific to [English/Language Arts \(ELA\)](#). CAI Signal is designed for Test Administrators (TAs) to view classroom (roster) and individual student data for the ILEARN Checkpoints. New ILEARN Mathematics Checkpoint CAI Signal [mockups](#) are now available. Resources to support these updates will be available soon, including a brochure, user guides, a video series, and addendums. Contact IDOE's [Office of Student Assessment](#) with any questions.

REMINDER: Mathematics Standards Spotlight Collections Live in the Indiana Learning Lab

The [Educator Standards Spotlights Collection](#) and the [Parent and Family Standards Spotlights Collection](#) for grades three through eight Mathematics are now available in the Learning Lab. These collections provide educator-focused videos and one-page resources aligned to four to six standards per grade level, as well as videos and one-page resources designed specifically for parents and families. Additional Mathematics and English/Language Arts videos and resources will be released on a rolling basis throughout the 2026-2027 school year and into summer 2027 to support continued student learning across Indiana. Contact IDOE's [Office of Student Assessment](#) with any questions.

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

NEW: How Students Learn Mathematics Learning Lab Course

The first course in the *Making the Shift: Elevating Mathematics Instruction* professional development series, *How Students Learn Mathematics*, has officially launched in the Learning Lab. This introductory course is the first of five in the series and lays the foundation for understanding current learning theory as it relates to mathematics. In this course, mathematics educators and leaders will explore how learning theory informs content learning, teaching practices, and learning progressions. Sign up for the course [here](#). Contact IDOE's [Office of Curriculum and Instruction](#) with any questions.

NEW: Computer Science (CS) and Artificial Intelligence (AI) Professional Development Session: "How is Computer Science Changing with Artificial Intelligence?"

An expert panel featuring faculty from Purdue University's CS department and Indiana-based business technology leaders discussed what is changing and what is staying the same in CS and offered insight about what skills students should be learning in K-12 CS. A [recording](#) of this panel is now available on-demand in the Indiana Learning Lab. Registration for the next CS and AI professional development session, "Teaching Interdisciplinary Data Science Skills in Computer Science," is now available [here](#). Contact IDOE's [Office of Curriculum and Instruction](#) with any questions.

REMINDER: Accelerating Middle School Students in Mathematics Webinar

A newly recorded webinar, [Accelerating Middle School Students in Mathematics](#), is now available in the Learning Lab. This session highlights effective strategies for supporting students in grades six through eight who are ready to progress more quickly in mathematics. This resource directly supports implementation of Indiana Code 20-30-18-3, which requires schools to automatically enroll eligible students into advanced middle school mathematics courses. Additional auto-enrollment resources and content about requirements are available on IDOE's [Mathematics webpage](#). Contact IDOE's [Office of Curriculum and Instruction](#) with any questions.

Office of Educator Talent and Literacy Center

REMINDER: 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. Only first time enrollees are eligible. Click [here](#) to register. Contact the [Literacy Center](#) with 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 of professional development can continue to follow the process outlined [here](#). Educators requesting a one-time Praxis voucher will use the same form, 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 the [Literacy Center](#) with any questions.

Office of School Finance

NEW: September Tuition Support Payment

Please see this [memo](#) regarding the September tuition support payment to be paid on Tuesday, September 15. Please email IDOE's [Office of School Finance](#) with any questions.

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 Health

NEW: School Nurses Resources

Please share the below resources with your school nurse.

[IDOE School Health Website](#)

- 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 medications, 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 evaluations, 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.

- 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: Multilingual Learner Report and English Learner (EL) Counts Captured on Thursday, October 1

The Multilingual Learner Report in Data Exchange (DEX-LM) collects information on students with a home language other than English, determines the enrollment count of identified EL-LM, and generates funding for schools via the federal Title III grant and the state Non-English Speaking Program (NESP). Any students with errors or exclusions will not be certified and included in the finalized Multilingual Learner Report. To review students not currently certified, navigate to the Validate tab in Data Exchange and click on the "Multilingual Learners" hyperlink. This report details each error or exclusion by STN and can be used for further organization. If there is any discrepancy between the information shown in the Data Exchange Validation portal and your Student Information System (SIS), please contact your SIS vendor directly or submit a help ticket [here](#).

NEW: Space Still Available for WIDA-Facilitated Workshop

Space is still available for the WIDA-facilitated workshop titled *Teacher Leaders: Planning with the ELD Standards Framework*. This is a one-day session on Thursday, October 1, at MSD Lawrence Township with a virtual component occurring the week prior on a Thursday, September 24, from 3:30 to 4:30 p.m. ET. Registration and additional information can be found [here](#). Please register as soon as possible if interested, and contact IDOE's [Office of English Learning and Multilingual Education](#) with any questions.

NEW: New Preschool Coordinator Webinar

A [recording](#) of the New Preschool Coordinator webinar is now available. This resource covers essential content for Preschool Coordinators, Special Education Directors, Early Learning Center Directors, First Steps Service Coordinators, Diagnosticians, Special Education Teachers, and General Education Teachers. Thank you to all attendees for both the New Preschool Coordinator Webinar and First Steps Transition Roadshow for their attendance, engagement, and questions. For any questions, please contact special@doe.in.gov.

REMINDER: Home Language Survey (HLS) Amendment Request Deadline

When it's required to change a student's language assignment from a non-English language to English, an HLS Amendment Request is required to be completed and sent to IDOE for review prior to a change occurring. Due to the volume of requests at the beginning of a school year, HLS Amendment Request counts must be submitted by Friday, September 18, to be reviewed prior to the October 1 Multilingual Learner Report request date. Due to FERPA, [HLS Amendment Request forms](#), along with the student's original HLS, must be submitted via [Jotform](#). The HLS Amendment Request guidance and form can be found in the Compliance Documents section of IDOE's [English Learning and Multilingual Education webpage](#). Contact IDOE's [Office of English Learning and Multilingual Education](#) with any questions.

REMINDER: Monthly New EL Director Professional Learning Community (PLC) on Monday, September 14

New Directors of EL programs are invited to join IDOE in an ongoing PLC during the 2026-2027 school year. This is a place to network with other stakeholders, access timely program information, and bring questions. The first session of the year will be held on Monday, September 14, at 9:30 a.m. ET. The meeting link and information can be found on IDOE's [EL PD Opportunities Calendar](#). Please contact IDOE's [Office of English Learning and Multilingual Education](#) with questions.

REMINDER: Special Education Directors Roadshow

Join IDOE's Office of Special Education leadership team as they travel the state to share key updates, insights, and the latest news impacting local education agencies (LEAs) during the 2026-2027 school year. Specific information, including locations, dates, times, registration link, and topics can be found [here](#). Please direct any questions related to these events to spedassistance@doe.in.gov.

REMINDER: Fiscal Year (FY) 2027 IDEA Part B Applications and Allocations

Applications, instructions, and allocation spreadsheets are now posted in IDOE's Office of Special Education Moodle Community.

Important Deadlines:

- **Friday, October 2:** 611, 619, and Supplemental applications due in the [grant management system](#).
- **Friday, October 16:** Mandatory Comprehensive Coordinated Early Intervening Services (CCEIS) applications due.

What to Know About Submissions:

- **Bundle your uploads:** Submit 611 + 611 Supplemental together, and 619 + 619 Supplemental together.
- **Supplemental funds:** The U.S. Department of Education Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP) awarded extra funds for FY 2027 IDEA grants; a separate application is required to access these supplemental funds.
- **CCEIS adjustments:** If mandated, your 15% CCEIS set-aside has already been deducted from the 611 column total.
- **New Charter Schools:** Will be eligible in January 2027. IDOE will contact you directly with instructions.
- **Questions?** Contact your assigned fiscal specialist, check [Moodle](#) for the updated specialist assignment list.

REMINDER: Important FY 2025 IDEA Part B Grant Information

FY 2025 IDEA Part B grant deadlines:

- **Immediate:** IDEA Part B monitoring reports are past due and must be submitted ASAP.
- **Tuesday, September 15:** Final day to submit FY 2025 IDEA Part B budget modification requests.
- **Wednesday, September 30:** Final day to encumber all FY 2025 Part B funds and official grant closing date.
- **Tuesday, December 15:** Final day to submit FY 2025 Part B grant reimbursement requests.

Reimbursement Requirements for FY 2025 Part B 611 and 619

Per the State Board of Accounts (SBOA), IDOE must obtain supporting documentation for reimbursements processed between October 1 and December 15 for grants that closed on Wednesday, September 30. The supporting documentation confirms that all expenses occurred within the grant's active period. Acceptable documentation may include:

- Paid dates
- Receipts or invoices showing as payment
- Purchase order or encumbrance dates (Documentation from LEA financial system is preferred, as handwritten documents will not be accepted)
- Ledger or computer document showing dates and expenses (Documentation from LEA financial system is preferred, as Excel format will not be accepted)
- Amounts total the reimbursement request reviewed

Office of Title Grants and Support

REMINDER: School Year (SY) 2025-2026 Self-Assessment

The Self-Assessment for SY 2025-2026 is now open for completion. Participation in the Self-Assessment is required for all LEAs receiving federal funds, and completing it on time helps ensure federal funding continues without interruption. This one-day event convenes public-sector leaders and tech innovators to explore how AI, cybersecurity, data governance, and modern service delivery are transforming state and local government. Featuring keynote addresses including inspirational insights from multimedia artist Phil Hansen, alongside peer-led panels and expert discussions, attendees will gain actionable strategies and forge vital connections. [Registration](#) is free for K-12 professionals, offering an invaluable opportunity to accelerate your digital agenda and enhance services for Hoosiers.

IOT is also offering a no-cost presummit event for K-12 and local government IT professionals on the prior day, Monday, October 5. Learn more and register at [IN.IT.Together Symposium 2026](#).

NEW FROM THE COLLOQUIUM FOR INFORMATION SYSTEMS SECURITY EDUCATION (CISSE): Cybersecurity Education Conference for Higher Education, Faculty, and Research

Higher education cybersecurity teachers are invited to a full day designed just for you at the [30th Colloquium for Information Systems Security Education \(CISSE\)](#), held at the Sheraton Indianapolis City Centre Hotel. The event features a dedicated K-12 paper track, two hands-on workshops focused on AI, cybersecurity, and cross-cutting cyber concepts, plus valuable time to connect with fellow educators nationwide. Up to 20 attendees can apply for \$200 travel scholarships. Registration is offered at a discounted single-day rate for eligible K-12 educators—an excellent chance to learn, share, and grow your cybersecurity teaching practice.

NEW FROM CLASSROOM TO CAREER: Educator and Business Perspectives on Meaningful Workplace Connection

Join the Wilson Education Center and Five Star Technology Solutions, on Friday, September 18, from 11 a.m. - 12 p.m. ET in the Indiana Learning Lab to explore ways that structured educator visits to local businesses can strengthen classroom relevance and connect student learning to real-world careers. Participants will explore the Industry Visits Toolkit, a collection of practical resources that support every stage of a visit, from planning and logistics to classroom integration and post-visit reflection. Educators and business partners who participated in a recent visit will share firsthand perspectives, key takeaways from immersive workplace experiences, and examples of how real-world business practices and skills can be transformed into meaningful classroom learning. [Register in the Indiana Learning Lab](#) and contact the [Digital Learning Team](#) with any questions.

REMINDER FROM DYSLLEXIA INSTITUTE OF INDIANA: Until Everyone Can Read Literacy Summit for Older Students

Join us for the free "Until Everyone Can Read Literacy Summit for Older Students" sponsored by the Lilly Endowment. All sessions will focus on supporting older students who struggle with reading, with different speakers and topics for each session. All sessions will be held via Zoom from 9 to 10:30 a.m. ET, on the second Saturday of the month from September to December. Register [here](#) to reserve your free spot to learn from experts about literacy for older students. Contact [Dyslexia Institute of Indiana](#) with any questions.