



Indiana Department of Education

Dr. Katie Jenner, Secretary of Education

August 24, 2026

This monthly newsletter from the Indiana Department of Education (IDOE) Office of Special Education (OSE) includes resources, guidance, and support for special education directors, educators, and administrators who provide essential services that Indiana's students with disabilities need to learn and thrive.

Technical Assistance and Professional Development

Special Education Directors Regional 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 links, and topics can be found [here](#). Please direct any questions about these convenings to spedassistance@doe.in.gov.

Semester 1 Director Outreach Opportunities

IDOE's Office of Special Education is offering multiple opportunities for Indiana special education directors and administrators through the 2026-2027 school year.

- The **Directors Symposium** will take place monthly, to provide relevant policy and resource updates that guide directors toward higher rates of compliance in their corporation's reporting.
- The newly created and openly available **Director Foundations** sessions will allow participants to ask questions and gain foundational information on session topics.
- The reformatted **Lead and Listen** sessions will be hosted by fellow Indiana special education directors, who will share tips and resources that help them develop and maintain special education programs in their unique communities.

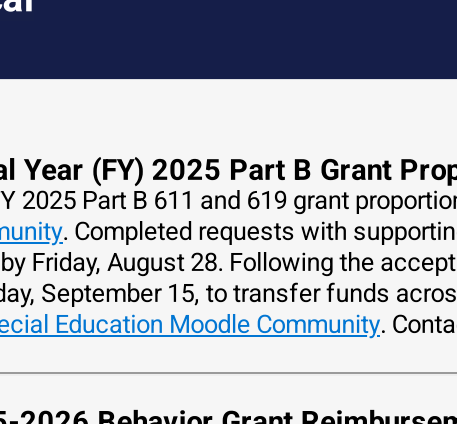
Specific information, including dates, times, virtual meeting links, and topics can be found [here](#). Please direct any questions about director outreach opportunities to spedassistance@doe.in.gov.

Updated Discipline Resources Available

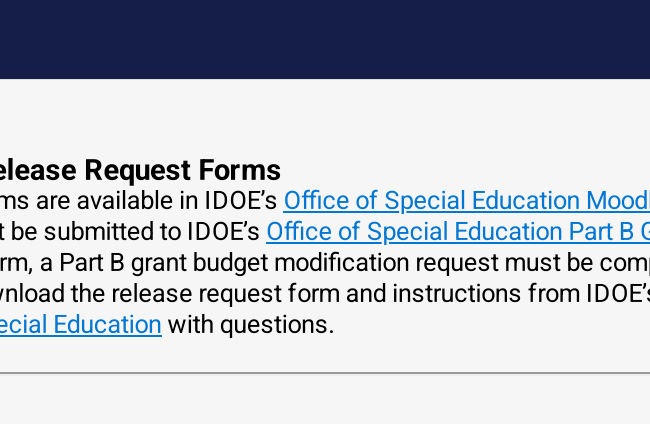
Updated discipline resource documents are now available in IDOE's Office of Special Education [webpage](#), under the "Technical Assistance" tab. The updated ["Is Manifestation Determination Required?"](#) and ["Student Removal and Practices"](#) resources are designed to support educators in navigating discipline processes and ensure compliance with special education requirements. Special education directors, educators, and administrators are encouraged to review the updated documents at their convenience. Contact spedassistance@doe.in.gov with any questions.

Excellence in Action: Educational Benefit Review (EBR) Pilot Program 2026-2027

A special thank you to the educators across participating LEAs who continued advancing the Educational Benefit Review Pilot throughout the summer. During a season meant for rest and renewal, the ongoing commitment to strengthening thoughtful planning practices within individualized education programs reflects unwavering dedication to the students of Indiana. The work accomplished builds leadership capacity and creates meaningful momentum for students. The collaboration, perseverance, and service are deeply appreciated.



Southwest Allen County is analyzing patterns between consecutive IEPs.



Franklin Community charting the Individualized Education Program (IEP) domains.

Fiscal

Fiscal Year (FY) 2025 Part B Grant Proportionate Share Release Request Forms

The FY 2025 Part B 611 and 619 grant proportionate share release forms are available in IDOE's [Office of Special Education Moodle Community](#). Completed requests with supporting documentation must be submitted to IDOE's [Office of Special Education Part B Grants](#) team by Friday, August 28. Following the acceptance of the release form, a Part B grant budget modification request must be completed by Tuesday, September 15, to transfer funds across budget scopes. Download the release request form and instructions from IDOE's [Office of Special Education Moodle Community](#). Contact IDOE's [Office of Special Education](#) with questions.

2025-2026 Behavior Grant Reimbursement Requests

The 2025-2026 Behavior Grant closed on Tuesday, June 30. The final day to submit reimbursement requests is Friday, August 28. Reimbursement requests should be submitted by email to osebehaviorgrant@doe.in.gov with "FY25-26 Behavior Grant Reimbursement" in the subject line.

Encumber All FY 2025 Part B Grant Funds by Wednesday, September 30

To ensure sufficient time for budget modification review and approval, submit all FY 2025 IDEA Part B grant budget modification requests by Tuesday, September 15. All FY 2025 Part B funds must be encumbered by Wednesday, September 30. The FY 2025 Part B grant reimbursement requests must be submitted to specialbpartb@doe.in.gov by Tuesday, December 15. IDEA Part B monitoring reports are now past due, please submit as soon as possible if you have not already done so. All Part B grant forms and related guidance are available in the Office of Special Education [Moodle Community's Fiscal section](#) under Part B Grants for Special Education. Contact IDOE's Office of Special Education at partbgrants@doe.in.gov with any questions.

FY 2025 IDEA Part B 611 and 619 Reimbursement Requests Required Back Up

Per SBOA requirement, IDOE is required to obtain all supporting documentation for reimbursement requests beyond the end date of the grant award. For example, a federal award ending September 30, requires that IDOE reimbursements to the LEA from October 1, to December 15, on the closing grant have supporting documentation accompanying the reimbursement request. This ensures that all activities and related expenses took place within the associated period of availability for the federal project being charged. Documents supporting the reimbursement request, to ensure grantees are accounting for the total amount requested and that expenses were properly encumbered by September 30, must be submitted with the reimbursement request.

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 is not accepted)
- Amounts total the reimbursement request reviewed

Contact IDOE's Office of Special Education at partbgrants@doe.in.gov with questions.

Service Capture Training Materials Now Available!

Service Capture is an optional training module within Special Programs that will be available to all Indiana LEAs in fall 2026 for documenting related services for billing purposes. Training materials have been made available early so users can learn the module and begin practicing in the training environment. Please note that the training environment is reset every Friday, so any edits or records made in the training environment will be cleared at the end of each week.

The PowerSchool Training Team will offer a live training session to review the Service Capture module from 9 to 11 a.m. ET on [Tuesday, August 25](#).

Dispute Resolution

Parent Access to Dispute Resolution Options

Public schools are responsible for ensuring that parents are aware of formal dispute resolution options. Schools must provide a copy of the [notice of procedural safeguards \(NOPS\)](#) to the parent of a student with a disability at least once each school year. For additional required instances, please see [511 IAC 7-37-1\(d\)](#).

For a quick overview of special education dispute resolution processes, click [here](#). For parent guides to dispute resolution options, click [here](#). While these guides describe the various dispute resolution processes under federal law, specifics on Indiana's formal dispute resolution processes are featured below.

For more information on each dispute resolution process and how to file a request, please visit the following:

- [Complaints](#)
- [Mediations](#)
- [Hearings](#)

If you need further assistance, please contact the [Dispute Resolution Team](#).

IDOE Special Programs

PowerSchool IDOE Special Programs Live Training Sessions and Calendar Released

The PowerSchool IDOE Special Programs Training team provides dedicated, live sessions on Microsoft Teams that offer hands-on, collaborative guidance to help users of all experience levels confidently learn and navigate IDOE Special Programs. There will be four session types targeting specific training needs: Office Hours, Application of Learning, Lunch & Learn, and Administrator Master Class. The calendar for August, September, and October PowerSchool training sessions can be found [here](#).

Schoolology Training

For new users to PowerSchool IDOE Special Programs, local special education directors will complete the [IDOE Special Programs Training Assistance Request Form](#) to sign up new educators for the initial product training.

Returning users only need to complete the Schoolology initial product training once. The training is tied to the individual and not the LEA.

Elevated Security Access for Special Education Directors

Special education directors can request elevated security access by completing the [Elevated Access Request Form](#).

Indiana PowerUps

Join Indiana Special Programs for engaging sessions designed exclusively for Indiana educators and administrators to explore the latest features and processes in the new PowerSchool platform. Sessions are scheduled throughout the fall from 1 to 2 p.m. ET:

- [Wednesday, September 16](#)
- [Wednesday, October 21](#)
- [Thursday, November 19](#)

PowerSchool Blog – Back-to-School Tips for Special Programs

PowerSchool's latest blog has your team covered heading into the new school year! [Back-to-School Tips for Special Programs: 2026](#) walks Special Programs administrators through reviewing foundational data, completing configuration tasks, establishing compliance processes early, and supporting staff readiness.

Special Educator Licensure, Recruitment, and Recognition

2027 Indiana Teacher of the Year (INTOY) Top 10 Announced

Congratulations to Indiana's [2027 INTOY Top 10 finalists](#)! For more than 60 years, [the INTOY program](#) has worked to inspire, rejuvenate, and celebrate the teaching profession by recognizing outstanding teachers from across the state. The INTOY honor is a lifetime role in education, which has many opportunities to celebrate teaching and uplift the teaching profession.

2026-2027 Required School Employee Training

Following each legislative session, IDOE provides an updated list of state and federally required training for school employees. The list for the upcoming 2026-2027 school year can be found [here](#). This list does not include optional training or training required by a local school corporation or governing body.

Additional Updates, Resources, and Opportunities

Indiana's State Accountability Website Now Available

IDOE's Office of School Accountability is excited to share that Indiana's redesigned A-F accountability website, offering greater transparency for families and educators. Explore the new website [here](#). Contact IDOE's [Office of School Accountability](#) with any questions.

Accessibility and Accommodations Information for Statewide Assessments

IDOE's [Accessibility and Accommodations Information for Statewide Assessments](#) is a document intended for school-level personnel as a reference to inform guidance on accessibility considerations, including universal features, designated features, and accommodations for students. Additional information regarding each Indiana statewide assessment can be found on IDOE's [Assessment webpage](#). Contact IDOE's Office of Student Assessment via email at INassessments@doe.in.gov with questions.

Teaching, Learning, and Assessment System Resources for 2026-2027

IDOE has released the [Teaching, Learning, and Assessment System Resources for School Year 2026-2027](#). The document provides timelines and details for updates to existing resources and the release of new instructional and assessment materials for ILEARN, English/language arts, and mathematics, including revised, evidence-based performance level descriptors and updated item specifications. Contact IDOE's [Office of Student Assessment](#) with any questions.

Foundational Literacy Birth to Five Course

This new asynchronous course is designed for early childhood educators working with children birth to age five, to teach foundational literacy information and how it informs the application of evidence-aligned, developmentally appropriate instructional practices as aligned with the science of reading. Content will be connected to reflections, asking educators to engage in intentional planning and preparation of meaningful literacy and learning experiences for children, as well as, in observing children in ways that will inform educator practice. Register for the two-part course [here](#). Contact IDOE's [Office of Student Assessment](#) with questions.

Described and Captioned Media Program (DCMP) Resource, "Understanding the IEP Process"

Developing an Individualized Education Program (IEP) should be a collaborative endeavor between parents and educators. These short, three to four minute videos help clarify the process and provide guidance for parents. By understanding the terms and procedures, parents can ensure their child receives the most appropriate services. Visit the DCMP webpage to view the [video series](#), and contact spedassistance@doe.in.gov with questions.

Effective Teaching Practices for Mathematics Resource

IDOE has created a new resource, [Effective Teaching Practices for Mathematics: IDOE Info and Resources](#), to provide Indiana mathematics educators and leaders with actionable guidance for implementing the eight effective teaching practices as defined by the National Council of Teachers of Mathematics (NCTM). This resource connects each practice to Indiana-specific resources such as professional learning courses, webinars, and more. Contact IDOE's [Office of Curriculum and Instruction](#) with any questions.

New Special Education Educator Institute Cohort from Indiana Council for Exceptional Children (CEC)

Indiana CEC, in partnership with IDOE, is offering the 2026-2027 CEC New Educator Institute Cohort at no cost for all first- and second-year special educators. Encouraging new teachers to join and participate in sessions supports professional growth, meaningful connection, and increased confidence without adding responsibilities for school or district leadership. This cohort provides targeted training, practical resources, ongoing support, and a statewide community of peers who fully understand the work of special education.

Educators interested in joining can complete the form linked [here](#). There is no cost and no additional process required. Please contact [Ashley Walke](#), INCEC Board Member, with any questions.

ATLAS Answers and New Lending Library Webpage

Visit the ATLAS Project equipment lending library, a no cost-service, that loans assistive technology (AT) devices, tools, apps, and resource materials to school personnel at Indiana's LEAs. Items are loaned for a six-week evaluation period for the purpose of previewing and/or trialing with students. Technical assistance may be requested to accompany equipment loans. Visit the newly updated Lending Library webpage at k12atlas.mytum.com. Additionally, each month the ATLAS Project hosts [ATLAS Answers](#) to bring Indiana educators a brief session of information pertaining to various areas of assistive technology. This month's video introduces the ATLAS Lending Library and services that are available at no cost. Contact k12ATLAS@eastersealscrossroads.org for more information.

The PASS Project's Conference for Educators Supporting Students with Sensory Loss

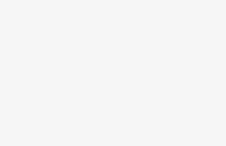
The PASS Project at Indiana State University is proud to host the inaugural Indiana Sensory Access, Inclusion, and Learning (INSAIL) Conference on Monday, September 14, and Tuesday, September 15, at the 502 East Event Centre in Carmel. This two-day event brings together educators, related service providers, interpreters, administrators, families, and other professionals who support students with sensory disabilities. Attendees will explore evidence-based practices, inclusive practices, accessibility, literacy, assistive technology, and student success, while networking with colleagues from across Indiana. The conference will feature keynote speaker Dr. Andrea Forum, who will share practical and engaging strategies for fostering resilience, preventing burnout, and sustaining joy in education. Register by Monday, August 31. Learn more [here](#).

Start Your School Year Off with Supports and Resources from HANDS in Autism

Hands in Autism® provides comprehensive, evidence-based training and resources designed for all staff to better support individuals with autism spectrum disorder (ASD) and related developmental disabilities. Trainings blend instruction, hands-on practice, coaching, and feedback grounded in research and best practices. Topics include practical strategies for assessment, behavior support, functional programming, classroom and community implementation, and individualized skill-building. These all-hands sessions help build shared understanding, inclusive practices, and enhanced confidence across teams working with diverse learners in educational, clinical, and community settings. For more information email hands@iu.edu or visit the [website](#).

Sharing: Sign up for this OSE Newsletter

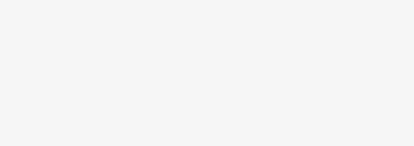
This is IDOE's Office of Special Education (OSE) monthly newsletter intended for school, district, co-op, and interlocal staff whose role necessitates receiving detailed information about Indiana special education monitoring, finance, data, etc. The OSE newsletter is distributed on the fourth Monday of each month except for July. If you know someone interested in newly subscribing to the OSE Newsletter mailing list, please direct them [here](#). Previous newsletters can be found [here](#) and in [Moodle](#). If you have any questions, please reach out to spedassistance@doe.in.gov.



Department News

[8/11/2026 Indiana Literacy Rates Increase for Fifth Consecutive Year](#)
[5/29/2026 Free Summer Meals Available to Students Across Indiana](#)
[5/13/2026 Indiana Launches First-of-Its-Kind Initiative to Expand Cybersecurity Education and Connect Students to College, Careers, and Military Service](#)

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