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Indiana Department of Education

Dr. Katie Jenner, Secretary of Education

October 26, 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.

Fiscal

Important Fiscal Year (FY) 2025 IDEA Part B Grant Deadline Reminder
Tuesday, December 15 is the final day to submit FY 2025 Part B grant reimbursement requests. Please email oarbgrants@doe.in.gov with any questions.

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 Thursday, October 1, and Tuesday, 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 local education agency (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

Monitoring

Pyramid Model Fall 2027 Cohort Office Hours
Working to reduce challenging behaviors in young children? The fall 2027 Pyramid Model Cohort application will open in January 2027. Cohort participants will receive, at no cost, full training, ability to self-train, coaching, lending library access, ongoing consultation after implementation, and more worth an estimated value of over $30,000. Cohort participants will also be eligible to apply for any project-related grant opportunities. Programs can review a one-page overview of Indiana's Pyramid Model and can join the virtual Microsoft Teams open office hours related to Pyramid Model implementation on Tuesday, December 1, from 2-3 p.m. ET. Questions about this notice may be directed to pyramidmodel@doe.in.gov.

Updated Spread the Word on Early Childhood Transition
The updated document, Spread the Word: Preparation for Transition from First Steps , now includes instructions related to transition conferences in Special Programs. Local education agencies (LEAs) must document their attendance and participation in transition conferences. Following the October release, there will be a grace period for LEAs to train their staff on proper documentation. Annual fall monitoring will begin in fall 2027 and will include transition conferences beginning in January 2027. Questions about the upcoming requirements can be sent to specialeducation@doe.in.gov. LEAs may also join an optional virtual office hour on Wednesday, October 28, from 3 to 4 p.m. ET.

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 Bierman 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 on the Transition Summit flyer. Contact IDOE's Office of Assessment with questions or for more information.

Reminder Parent Survey Data Access Update
All Special Education Directors currently have access to request Parent Survey data using this Parent Survey Data Request . The data shared will not include any personally identifiable information (PII). Instead, LEAs will receive a numerical breakdown of responses to each survey question. Survey data will be provided through a shared Google Sheet, with individual tabs for each LEA associated with the email address submitted. The data is a snapshot from the moment the request is submitted. Data will also be shared once per quarter to all directors on the access list. If a director would like additional staff members to receive access, please complete the Parent Survey User Access Request . Any emails submitted will be added to the user access list.

Technical Assistance and Professional Development

Last Call for the Special Education Directors Regional Roadshow
There are three opportunities remaining to join IDOE's Office of Special Education leadership team as they travel the state to share key updates, insights, and the latest news impacting LEAs during the 2026-2027 school year.

- Thursday, November 5, New Albany-Floyd County Consolidated Schools
- Friday, November 6, Greater Jasper Consolidated Schools
- Thursday, November 12, Tippecanoe School Corporation

More information, including locations, dates, times, registration links, and topics can be found here. Please direct any questions about these convenings to speds assistance@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 speds assistance@doe.in.gov.

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. Access the calendar for October, November, and December training sessions.

Indiana PowerUps
Join Indiana Special Programs for an engaging sessions designed exclusively for Indiana educators and administrators to explore the latest features and processes in the new PowerSchool platform. Register to join the session on Thursday, November 19, from 1 to 2 p.m. ET.

Special Educator Licensure, Recruitment, and Recognition

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 questions.

Federal Guidance and News

Publication of the 47th Annual Report to Congress
The U.S. Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP) released the 47th Annual Report to Congress (ARC) on the Implementation of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, 2025. Additionally, OSEP is releasing a companion OSEP Fast Fact: The Annual Report to Congress which provides an overview of the purpose of the ARC and highlights exhibits and information contained in the 47th ARC.

Additional Updates, Resources, and Opportunities

Supporting Behavior of Students with Disabilities: Creating Conditions for Success Series from the Lead IDEA Center
School leaders play a critical role in creating conditions for positive behavior and student success. Yet developing proactive, effective behavioral supports aligned with the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) requires strong systems and data-informed practices.

School leaders are invited to join the Lead IDEA Center's Solution-Based Learning Series Learning Block 4: Supporting Behavior of Students with Disabilities: Creating Conditions for Success. This no-cost virtual learning opportunity offers actionable strategies for strengthening systems that support positive student behavior through prevention, effective services and supports, and data-based decision-making.

In this learning block, participants will:

- Connect behavioral support practices to IDEA by understanding legal requirements related to behavior, disciplinary decision-making, and manifestation determination.
- Strengthen prevention practices when behavior impacts student learning and participation.
- Identify the function of behavior to support teams in addressing concerns and promoting student success.
- Learn data-based decision-making processes to evaluate the effectiveness of behavioral services and supports and guide continuous improvement efforts.
- Identify and leverage free tools and resources that support effective behavioral intervention and IDEA implementation.

Live sessions will be held on Tuesday, December 1, and Tuesday, December 15, from 6 to 7:15 p.m. ET. Registration is free and open through Wednesday, November 25. Reserve your spot today.

Assistive Technology (AT) Options for Students with Significant Disabilities
The ATLAS Project will present a no-cost live webinar in the Indiana Learning Lab on Thursday, November 19, at 1 p.m. ET sharing a range of AT tools and strategy options designed to support students with severe and profound disabilities. AT can support students with significant disabilities in communication, learning, participation, and independence. Webinar participants will learn how to identify appropriate low-tech and high-tech solutions, match tools to individual student needs, and promote meaningful access to educational opportunities. Real-world examples and practical considerations for implementation in school settings will also be shared. Can't join the live webinar? The presentation will be recorded and available for on-demand viewing in the Indiana Learning Lab.

Accessibility Before Accommodation Webinar Series
Join the National Center on Accessible Digital Education Materials and Instruction (NCADEMI) for a three-part virtual learning series exploring accessibility advances the lifecycle of digital educational materials, from the resources educators create and select themselves to the materials and learning technologies schools purchase.

- Session one: Creating Accessible Materials from the Start
- Session two: Embedding Accessibility into Procurement
- Session three: Selecting Resources with Accessibility in Mind

This series emphasizes the importance of considering accessibility before materials reach students rather than after a student encounters a barrier. Attendees will learn strategies and tools to proactively embed accessibility into everyday practice and instruction. They will also explore how individual actions connect to broader accessibility systems. Click here to learn more and to register.

2026-2027 Science of Reading - Experts Explain Series with The Reading League Indiana
In partnership with IDOE, The Reading League Indiana is pleased to present the Science of Reading Experts Explain Series with a focus on strengthening K-12 literacy instruction. Featuring national reading science experts, this live, virtual series showcases critical research and resources for coaches and school leaders shifting their practice towards evidence-aligned reading and writing instruction. The webinar will feature a brief presentation, followed by a Q&A, and additional resource suggestions to enhance your learning on the topic. All sessions will be recorded and shared in the Learning Lab. Contact IDOE's Literacy Center with any questions.

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. Adult 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. Visit the IYI website to find dates and locations to register. Contact Nathan Foor with any questions.

Work-Based Learning Digital Resource Hub Launched
Governor Braun announced a new resource to expand career-connected learning opportunities for Indiana's K-12 students. The new Work-Based Learning Digital Resource Hub has been launched through a partnership between the Indiana Commission for Higher Education (the Commission), IDOE, and Ascend Indiana . This comprehensive collection of practical tools is designed to help K-12 schools, employers, and regional partners implement high-quality work-based learning aligned with Indiana's new high school diploma. The new diploma requirements allow increased flexibility for students to personalize their journey and earn readiness seals aligned to their unique future goals, whether they plan to go to college, go straight into career, or serve in our Nation's military. For more information about work-based learning, visit Ascend Indiana's 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 speds assistance@doe.in.gov.

Department News

10/21/26 Chronic Absenteeism Improves in Indiana for Fourth Consecutive Year
10/6/2026 Gov. Braun Strengthens Work-Based Learning Opportunities For Students Through New Digital Resource Hub
10/5/2026 Gov. Braun: Exemplary Schools Earn Prestigious Indiana Blue Ribbon Schools Designation
10/2/2026 Fifth Annual Red Carpet Event Honors Indiana's Top Schools and Educators

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