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Indiana Department of Education

Dr. Katie Jenner, Secretary of Education

September 28, 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

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

Applications, instructions, and allocation spreadsheets are 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.

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.
- 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.

Monitoring

Special Education Directors - 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 users 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.

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. 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.

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 of both the New Preschool Coordinator Webinar and First Steps Transition Roadshow for their attendance, engagement, and questions. For any questions, please contact specialeducation@doe.in.gov.

Early Childhood Community of Practice

The next Early Childhood Special Education Community of Practice will take place on Thursday, October 15, from 11 a.m. to noon ET. Join IDOE's Office of Special Education to review First Steps Transition practices and learn about upcoming changes in PowerSchool Special Programs (PSSP) related to Transition Conferences. Join the event [here](#) and contact specialeducation@doe.in.gov with any questions.

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.

Data

Pupil Enrollment (PE) Count

All public and nonpublic schools will report enrollment counts as of Thursday, October 1. Public and state-accredited nonpublic schools submit this data via the PE in Data Exchange (DEX) and non-state accredited schools submit this data via the Non-Accredited Nonpublic Pupil Enrollment Jotform.

The public and nonpublic enrollment counts determine in-part the size of each LEA's Part B special education grant beginning July 1, 2027. This includes overall count and a poverty count based on the number of students eligible for free or reduced lunch. Each student's Student School Association record needs to include up-to-date information on free-reduced eligibility, even if the school has universal free lunch.

Special education administrators are highly encouraged to review the enrollment counts with local data personnel (at both public and nonpublic schools) to ensure accuracy. Please note that the PE/NP counts should not be confused with Membership (ME) that occurs on the same day and determines Average Daily Membership (ADM) funding. If you have any questions contact osedata@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. The calendar for September and October PowerSchool training sessions can be found [here](#).

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

Special Educator Licensure, Recruitment, and Recognition

Special Education Licensure with Indiana Special Education Assisted Licensure (I-SEAL)

Looking to earn your full licensure in special education? I-SEAL provides Indiana's current and future special education educators with access to convenient, accelerated options and key financial support.

- For educators licensed in another subject:** Currently licensed teachers who wish to add special education to their existing license can participate in a fully funded 18-credit hour graduate program through the University of Indianapolis, Taylor University, or Indiana Wesleyan University.
- For individuals currently enrolled in a graduate-level special education preparation program:** Individuals who are currently enrolled in a graduate-level special education teacher preparation program can earn scholarship assistance to support the completion of their required special education coursework and purchase textbooks.
- For non-education bachelor's degree holders:** Special education educators who have not earned full licensure but hold a non-education bachelor's degree may receive a full scholarship to enroll in a federally compliant Transition to Teaching program. Ten Transition to Teaching programs in special education are currently available across Indiana.
- For individuals who have not yet passed the state licensing exam:** Individuals who have completed a special education preparation program, but have not yet passed the state licensure exam, can participate in a free test-preparation workshop.

Eligible individuals can learn more and apply for assistance by visiting [IndianaSEAL.org](#).

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

Switch it Up: Practical Applications for the Use of Switches in Schools Webinar

Accessibility switches are one of the most versatile tools to have in your back pocket as a special education teacher or therapist.

Switches can quickly and easily create meaningful opportunities for participation, communication, learning, and independence throughout the school day. This no-cost Indiana Learning Lab session on Monday, October 12, at 10 a.m. ET will explore practical applications of switch access across educational environments, including the classroom, therapy sessions, and specials. Participants will learn strategies for matching switch solutions to student needs, identifying opportunities for switch use, and collaborating across disciplines to support meaningful engagement. Learn more and sign up [here](#).

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. 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.

Additionally, the ATLAS Project hosts the monthly [ATLAS Answers](#) which brings Indiana educators information pertaining to various areas of AT. In this month's video, Lindsay Wells explores AT tools that support students with visual impairments. Learn about low-, mid-, and high-tech solutions, simple classroom modifications, and how Indiana educators can borrow equipment through the free ATLAS Equipment Lending Library to find the right tools for their students. Contact k12ATLAS@eastersealscrossroads.org for more information.

Handle with Care Program

Exposure to trauma can disrupt brain development and interfere with a child's ability to academically succeed. [The Handle with Care \(HWC\)](#) program from the Indiana Department of Health is a [notification system](#) that enables law enforcement and other first responders to notify schools when a child has been at the scene of a potentially traumatic event, allowing schools and mental health partners to provide appropriate support. By ensuring children have safe, stable, and nurturing environments for healthy development and learning, the potential effects of trauma can be mitigated. Anyone can initiate contact to start the conversation about implementing Handle with Care in their community. To start the discussion, please contact [Chelsie Irwin](#), Trauma Informed Communities Program Director.

Indiana Council for Exceptional Children (CEC): Educator Institute Cohort

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](#). Please contact [Ashley Walke](#), INCEC Board Member, with any questions.

Help Update the Indiana Resource Center for Autism (IRCA)'s Autism Team Leaders Network

The IRCA is updating their Autism Team Leaders Network listserv and want to make sure the right people in your LEA stay connected. Please register any autism specialist, coordinator, consultant, or other professional who serves as an autism leader in your district [here](#).

Even if you are already part of the Autism Team Leaders Network, please re-register so the IRCA can ensure they have your most current contact information, role, and district information. Network members receive information about upcoming IRCA speakers, trainings, resources, networking opportunities, and other free professional learning opportunities throughout the year. Reach out for more information at hands@iu.edu or visit the HANDS in Autism [webpage](#).

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

Developing an 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.

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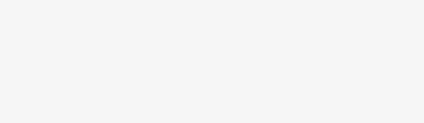
This is IDOE's Office of Special Education (OSE) monthly newsletter intended for school, district, co-op, and interlocal staff whose role necessitates receiving detailed information about Indiana special education monitoring, finance, data, etc. The OSE newsletter is distributed on the fourth Monday 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

9/21/2026 Gov. Braun Recognizes Rural Bloomfield School Where Indiana's First in the Nation Cybersecurity Pathway Comes to Life
9/18/2026 Governor Braun Visits Bloomfield Middle and High School to See First in the Nation Cybersecurity Pathway in Action
9/16/2026 Gov. Braun Announces 2027 Teacher of the Year
8/17/2026 Indiana Literacy Rates Increase for Fifth Consecutive Year

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