



INDIANA  
DEPARTMENT of  
EDUCATION

# Dr. Jenner's Weekly Update

Weekly Newsletter from the Indiana Department of Education

May 8, 2026

## A Message from Dr. Katie Jenner

This Teacher Appreciation Week and every week, I want to extend a huge **THANK YOU** to all of our Indiana teachers for showing up day in and day out, giving it your all, and positively impacting Indiana's next generation.

Our teachers are truly superstars, serving each day to benefit our students and ultimately, leaving it a little better than we found it. Check out the video message below highlighting the important work of our superstars!



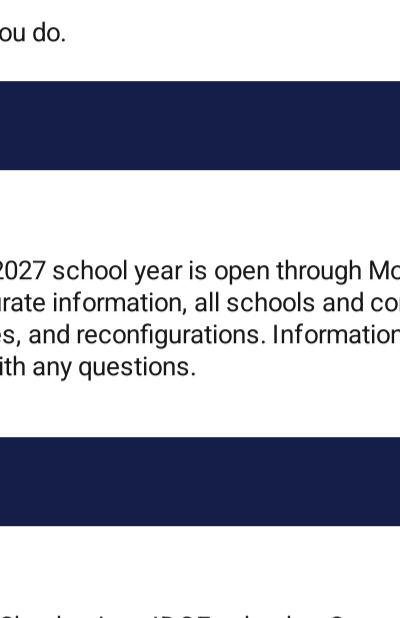
I also want to highlight **Ms. Kathy Nimmer**, 2015 Indiana Teacher of the Year and recipient of the 2026 Helen Keller Achievement Award from the American Foundation for the Blind.

Kathy was recently recognized for her nearly 30 years of teaching at Harrison High School in West Lafayette, as well as her work as the founder of SEEDS, a mentorship program for new educators, which received the Excellence in Leading and Learning Award at the Educational Excellence Awards Gala in 2024.

For more than three decades, the Helen Keller Achievement Award has honored thought leaders, change-makers, and artists who are shaping a more accessible and welcoming world for people with disabilities. What an incredible accomplishment!

We are so grateful for the impact Kathy continues to have on education in Indiana, and most importantly, on students across the state. Congratulations, Kathy!

Happy Teacher Appreciation Week! And as always, thank you for all that you do.



## Office of Accountability

### REMINDER: School and Corporation Profile Amendment Window

The school and corporation profile amendment submission window for the 2026-2027 school year is open through Monday, August 31. To ensure the Indiana Department of Education (IDOE) maintains accurate information, all schools and corporations must provide notice when changes are made that affect school openings, closures, and reconfigurations. Information on the submission process can be found [here](#). Contact IDOE's [Office of Accountability](#) with any questions.

## Office of Assessment

### NEW: ILEARN Checkpoints End-of-Year Survey Now Available

To help inform future improvements to tools, resources, and supports for ILEARN Checkpoints, IDOE asks that Corporation Test Coordinators (CTCs), School Test Coordinators (STCs), and teachers complete the ILEARN Checkpoints end-of-year [survey](#). Please be sure to share this survey with all appropriate staff members. Thank you for your collaboration and feedback throughout the 2025-2026 school year!

### NEW: 2026-2027 Formative (Interim) Assessment Grant Guidance and Application

Eligible corporations, charter schools, and non-public schools may apply [here](#) for the Formative (Interim) Assessment Grant for the 2026-2027 school year. Public school corporations should complete this application at the district level, while charter schools and accredited non-public schools should complete this application at the school level. Please review the [2026-2027 Formative \(Interim\) Assessment Grant Guidance](#) prior to submitting an application. Applications are due by 11:59 p.m. ET on Friday, June 12.

As a reminder, schools are required to administer universal screeners for math ([Indiana Code \(IC\) 20-32-6.5-2](#)) and reading (IC 20-35.5) for all students in kindergarten through grade two, along with high-ability identification assessments ([511 IAC 6-9.1-2](#)) in kindergarten and grade two. [Guidance for the Intersection of Universal Screening and High Ability Achievement Testing in Kindergarten through Grade Two](#) outlines recommended practices to ensure consistent, research-based implementation of these assessments, aligned to state statute. This resource also highlights flexibility for schools to adapt their assessment approach to local theories of action and clarifies the funding sources that support these required screenings. Contact IDOE's [Office of Student Assessment](#) with any questions.

### NEW: Cambridge International Math and Science Grant Informational Webinar

Cambridge International and IDOE will host an informational webinar on Wednesday, May 13, from 3 to 3:30 p.m. ET, in anticipation of the upcoming 2026-2027 Cambridge Math and Science grant application cycle. This webinar will cover the grant application process, as well as the Cambridge International courses and professional development offerings for schools available for grant funding. Schools can register for the webinar using [this registration link](#). A recording of the webinar will be available following the live webinar.

The 2026-2027 Cambridge Math and Science Grant, funded by House Enrolled Act 1001 (2025), is designed to support any school or corporation interested in increasing student enrollment and improving student scores in math and science. The grant application cycle will begin on Friday, May 15, and completed grant applications will be due Friday, July 17. Applicants can request up to \$25,000 per school. The grant implementation cycle begins Wednesday, Wednesday, July 1, and ends June 30, 2027. Applicable expenses made prior to completing the grant application can be reimbursed. Contact IDOE's [Office of Student Assessment](#) with questions.

### REMINDER: Fall 2026 Early Learning Assessment System Opt-In New and Returning- IKRA and ISPROUT

As part of Indiana's system to measure and support kindergarten readiness, Indiana's IKRA will be available to all public, charter, and non-public schools as an opt-in assessment for kindergarten students in fall 2026. The [IKRA opt-in window is open](#) for one more week through next Friday, May 15. Schools wishing to opt-in for IKRA this fall must opt-in by this date in order to have materials printed and shipped by the start of school. The [ISPROUT opt-in window for students ages birth through five](#) is also open for all 2026. ISPROUT will continue to be required for children in special education, as well as children utilizing On My Way Pre-K funding. Administering ISPROUT is also required for all programs receiving High-Quality Curricular Materials Grant funding in 2025. Any program serving children ages birth through five is able to opt-in. Schools that participated in the IKRA or ISPROUT previously must still complete an opt-in form for 2026-2027. Contact IDOE's [Office of Assessment](#) with any questions.

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

### NEW: Tiered System of Supports Live Series - The Value of Strong Tier I Math Instruction in K-8

IDOE's Office of Curriculum and Instruction will host a live webinar to support local implementation of mathematics tiered instruction. This webinar will focus on planning Mathematics Tier I environment, curriculum, instruction, and data evaluation to create a solid structure supporting students progress toward grade-level proficiency. There will also be time for participants to ask questions. The webinar will take place at 3:30 p.m. ET on Tuesday, May 19. Use [this link](#) to register. Contact IDOE's [Office of Curriculum and Instruction](#) with any questions.

### NEW: 2026-2027 High Ability Program Grant Pre-Launch Webinar

The 2026-2027 High Ability Program Grant is designed to support public schools, including 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 pre-launch training webinar at 3 p.m. ET on Tuesday, May 12, to learn more about the grant application and process. Use [this link](#) to join the webinar. The grant will open on Friday, May 15. All eligible school corporations will receive a notification with the application link and their allocation amounts. Applications are due by 11:45 p.m. ET on Friday, August 14. Contact IDOE's [Office of Curriculum and Instruction: High Ability](#) with any questions.

### REMINDER: Indiana's Priorities and Next Steps for Data Science Education

Indiana is prioritizing data science education to prepare students for a workplace and labor driven by data. The [Indiana's Priorities for Data Science](#) report summarizes feedback from Indiana's Data Science Summit, held in December 2025, and responds to [legislation](#) creating a Data Science Math Pathway. Join a [session with IDOE's Office of STEM](#) in the Indiana Learning Lab on Friday, May 1, at 4 p.m. ET to hear a summary of the report. The session will discuss Indiana's progress and next steps in data science education, including a proposal for a data science pilot program for the 2027-2028 school year. Contact IDOE's [Office of Curriculum and Instruction](#) with any questions.

### REMINDER: Tiered System of Supports Live Series for K-8 Mathematics Slides and FAQ

Administrators unable to attend the Tiered System of Supports Live Series for K-8 Mathematics webinar can now access the slides for sessions held on [Monday, March 23](#), and [Monday, April 13](#). The [FAQ](#) is also now available. Contact IDOE's [Office of Curriculum and Instruction](#) with any questions.

### REMINDER: Artificial Intelligence (AI) Spotlight Sessions

Join administrators, coaches, teachers, and students from school corporations across Indiana to hear them share their strategies, successes, and challenges related to AI. Join us in the Indiana Learning Lab each day at noon ET from Monday, May 11, through Friday, May 15, to hear their stories. Register to attend [here](#). Contact IDOE's [Office of Digital Learning](#) with any questions.

## Office of Educator Talent and Literacy Center

### REMINDER: Universal Reading Screening Guidance 2026-2027

The universal reading screening guidance including information on dyslexia universal programming has been updated for 2026-2027 [here](#). This guidance includes administering universal reading screening, appropriate interventions for students, Level I diagnostic screening process, and family communication. Please contact IDOE's [Literacy Center](#) with any questions.

## Office of School and Community Nutrition

### NEW: Farm to School Recipe Contest for Indiana High School Culinary Students

The Indiana Grown for Schools Network and Family, Career, and Community Leaders of America (FCCLA) are excited to release registration for the third annual Farm to School Recipe Contest for Indiana high school students. Students will create a recipe using either apples, to celebrate [Indiana Apple Crunch](#), or tomatoes, to celebrate [Indiana Food Day](#). The purpose of the contest is to increase awareness of school meal programs and provide a specific way to celebrate these Farm to School initiatives. Winning students will receive an Indiana Grown for Schools network swag bag, a highlight on social media, and more! Learn more and register [here](#).

## Office of School Finance

### NEW: Allowable Fee Decision Flowchart

Please review this [flowchart](#) to assist in determining the student fee structure for the 2026-2027 school year. Contact IDOE's [Office of School Finance](#) with any questions.

### REMINDER: Teacher Compensation And Funding Floor Fiscal Year (FY) 2026

Please review this [memo](#) for important reminders regarding fiscal year 2026 teacher compensation and funding floor calculations. Contact IDOE's [Office of School Finance](#) with any questions.

## Office of School Support and Transformation

### REMINDER: Next Generation School Improvement Grant (Next Gen SIG)

The Next Generation School Improvement Grant application is now available. This is a competitive, multi-year, multi-million-dollar grant that must include a well-developed vision and an intentional strategic plan to innovate or transform the educational experience for your students and community. Eligibility for this grant extends to all schools currently identified as CST and TSI under Indiana's Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) plan. The following [link](#) includes more information about the grant program, a list of eligible schools, a PDF version of the application, the scoring rubric, directions, and a link to the live online application. IDOE's Office of School Support and Transformation will continue accepting applications through Friday, May 29. Contact [Georgia Watson](#) with any questions.

## Office of Special Education, English Learning, and Migrant Education

### NEW: Applications for Auditory Verbal Accelerated Funding Now Open

Applications for Fiscal Year (FY) 2027 Auditory Verbal Accelerated funding are now open. Additional information is available in the IDOE Office of Special Education Moodle community. Contact [avaedu@doe.in.gov](#) with any questions.

### NEW: Upcoming Indicator 14 Webinar for Local Education Agencies (LEAs)

IDOE's Office of Special Education, in collaboration with the IDEA Data Center (IDC) and the National Technical Assistance Center on Transition: The Collaborative (NTRACT), will offer two upcoming webinars on Indicator 14: Post-School Outcomes Surveying. These sessions will prepare districts for successful post-school outcomes data collection. Please share with transition coordinators, special education directors, and other relevant staff. Webinar options can be found below:

- [Wednesday, May 20, from 12:30 to 1:30 p.m. ET](#)
- [Thursday, May 21, from 1:30 to 2:30 p.m. ET](#)

Participants may attend either session; a recording will be provided after. If you have any questions, please reach out to [osemonitoring@doe.in.gov](#).

### REMINDER: Important Changes to Medicaid Administrative Claiming (inMAC)

Beginning Wednesday, July 1, program requirements will change to align with updated federal guidance from the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS). Key changes include:

- Required enrollment as an Indiana Medicaid provider. Please see the [Medicaid Enrollment memo](#).
- InMAC Quarterly procedural changes. Please see the [IndianaMAC update memo](#).

Contact [schoolmedicaid@doe.in.gov](#) with any questions.

### REMINDER: RoboKind Grant Opportunity - 2026-2027 School Year

Through House Enrolled Act 1001 (2025), IDOE offers the RoboKind Grant opportunity for select corporations and schools to purchase robotic technology and provide professional development endorsed by the Council of Administrators of Special Education (CASE) to improve the social and behavioral skills for students with autism. RoboKind's programs are delivered by engaging virtual avatars. While the programs no longer require a physical robot, districts currently implementing the robot-led program may continue using their robots if they apply for a renewal. Existing partner districts will also receive access to the virtual avatar-led programs, in addition to their current robot-led implementations. RoboKind supports research-based curriculum across social skills and phonics. Information, applications, and the budget template can be found [here](#). Email the signed application and budget template to [robokind@doe.in.gov](#). Contact [robokind@doe.in.gov](#) with additional questions.

### REMINDER: IDEA Part B Proportionate Share Office Hours

IDOE's Office of Special Education Part B fiscal team is hosting office hours to assist LEAs that have proportionate share balances or are planning to complete a Proportionate Share Release. The Fiscal Year IDEA Part B Section 611 and 619 grants will close on Wednesday, September 30. This forum will answer questions and provide support for LEAs to spend funds for students with disabilities who are parentally placed in a non-public or homeschool setting. IDOE's Equitable Services Joint-ombudsman will also share best practices for meeting initial and ongoing consultation requirements. Click the links below to join:

- [Thursday, May 21, from 10 to 11 a.m. ET](#)
- [Wednesday, May 27, from 1 to 2 p.m. ET](#)

### REMINDER: IDOE Special Programs for Multilingual Learners Office Hours

IDOE's Office of English Learning and Migrant Education is hosting a virtual office hours session on Monday, May 11, at 11 a.m. ET to provide support for IDOE Special Programs, the statewide platform to house Individual Learning Plans (ILPs) and additional documentation for multilingual learners. In this session, updates to EL-related features of the system will be reviewed, along with time for questions. Visit the [Indiana EL Professional Development Opportunities Calendar](#) for the meeting link. Contact IDOE's [Office of English Learning and Migrant Education](#) with any questions.

### REMINDER: Monthly New EL Director Professional Learning Community (PLC) on Tuesday, May 12

New directors of English learner programs are invited to join IDOE in an ongoing PLC during the 2025-2026 school year. This is a place to network with other stakeholders, access timely program information, and bring questions. The next session will be held Tuesday, May 12, at 9:30 a.m. ET. The meeting link and information can be found on the [EL PD Opportunities Calendar](#). Please contact IDOE's [Office of English Learning and Migrant Education](#) with questions.

## Office of Educational Options and Quality

### NEW: Charter School Program's State Facility Incentive Grant (SFIG)

The SFIG Cohort 1 application is coming soon! This is a federal grant that provides per-pupil facilities aid to charter schools. The application release date and link to apply will be shared via Dr. Jenner's Weekly Update when available.

## Indiana Commission for Higher Education

### NEW: Indiana Recognizes Recipients of 2026 Career and Technical Education (CTE) Awards for Excellence

The Indiana Commission for Higher Education and IDOE recognized winners of CTE Awards for Excellence, celebrating standout achievements from CTE students, programs, teachers, and school counselors across the state. Those recognized exemplify the ideal qualities and outcomes of Career and Technical Education, contributing to the success of CTE through the quality of their work, their leadership, and their involvement in the community. For a full list of winners, read the press release [here](#).

## News From Our Partners

### NEW FROM KEEP INDIANA LEARNING (a department of the CIESC): Deep Dive Into Approved Math Screeners

Keep Indiana Learning is excited to host a deep dive into Indiana's state-approved math screeners at The Pyramids in Indianapolis on Monday, May 18. This free event is two sessions in one: Forefront Universal Screener for Number Sense will present in the morning, followed by Curriculum Associates i-Ready Inform in the afternoon. Participants will explore how these tools assess foundational mathematical thinking and gain practical insights into using results to drive instructional decision-making. Designed for teachers, coaches, and school leaders, this in-person event ensures you leave with a clear roadmap for implementation in your district. Seats are limited - [register today](#) to secure your spot! Contact [Keep Indiana Learning](#) with questions.

### NEW FROM NEXTECH: Computing Foundations for a Digital Age Professional Development

This workshop is designed for educators who are preparing to implement Indiana's Next Level Program of Study (NLPS) course 4565: *Computing Foundations for a Digital Age* to support Indiana's computer science graduation requirement. Through guided activities, educators will be introduced to core computer science principles and the expanding role of AI in everyday life, while experiencing ready-to-use lessons and strategies that support student engagement and success. Opportunities for stipends and professional growth points are available to educators. More information and registration information is [here](#). Contact [kerry@nextech.org](#) with questions.



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