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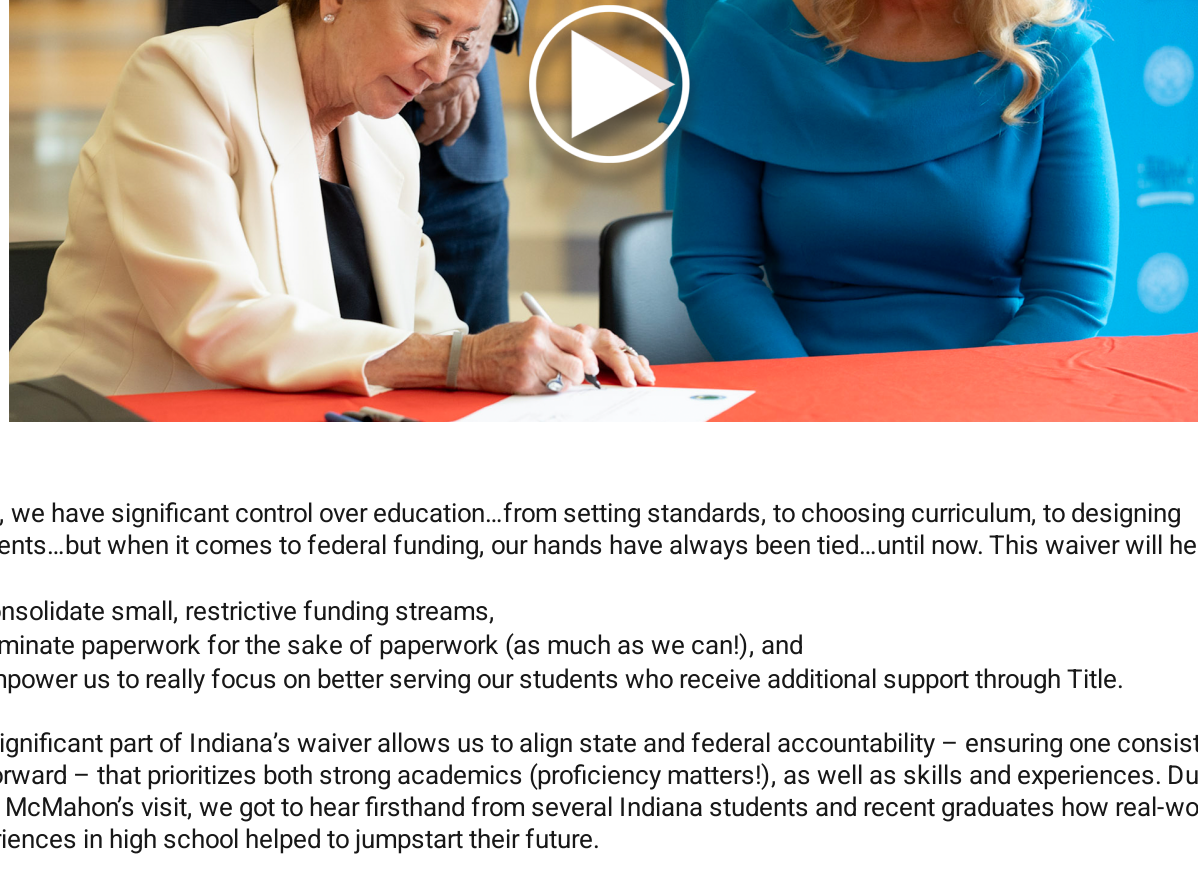
Dr. Jenner's Weekly Update

Weekly Newsletter from the Indiana Department of Education

June 19, 2026

A Message from Dr. Katie Jenner

There are many things that make Indiana special...and we are humble as a state, so sometimes we don't celebrate our wins loudly enough. Yet, our K-12 schools are strong and growing stronger, and our higher education institutions have some of the best programs in the country. This work – which all starts at the local level – is frequently highlighted on stages across the nation...and this week, we were in the national spotlight yet again as U.S. Secretary of Education Linda McMahon visited Indiana to announce the approval of Indiana's flexibility waiver. You can check out a video of the event below.



As states, we have significant control over education...from setting standards, to choosing curriculum, to designing assessments...but when it comes to federal funding, our hands have always been tied...until now. This waiver will help Indiana:

- Consolidate small, restrictive funding streams,
- Eliminate paperwork for the sake of paperwork (as much as we can!), and
- Empower us to really focus on better serving our students who receive additional support through Title.

Another significant part of Indiana's waiver allows us to align state and federal accountability – ensuring one consistent model moving forward – that prioritizes both strong academics (proficiency matters!), as well as skills and experiences. During Secretary McMahon's visit, we got to hear firsthand from several Indiana students and recent graduates how real-world learning and experiences in high school helped to jumpstart their future.

We've spotlighted Plainfield Community Schools recently for their literacy focus, particularly at Central Elementary School, where our Indiana Teacher of the Year Megan Johnson teaches fourth grade...but they are also doing incredible work for students in the high school space. First, we heard from **Addie**, a recent Plainfield High School graduate, who spent part of her high school experience volunteering at a mobile veterinary clinic...an experience that reaffirmed her passion for animal care. Through her extensive on-the-job experience in high school, she became the only undergraduate student hired this year by Ohio State University's Veterinary Medical Center!

We also heard from **Kiley**, a current Plainfield student, who explored healthcare careers through Eskenazi Health's VolunTEEN Summer Program. She explained how valuable it was to experience the fast-paced reality of a hospital setting...as she specifically pointed out, something no classroom or TV show can replicate. That real-world exposure gave her the kind of clinical experience medical schools seek in competitive applicants.

Next, we heard from **Aubrey**, a recent graduate of Eastern Hancock High School. Eastern Hancock's leaders have been intentional about building strong partnerships with employers, and today they have nearly as many employer partners as they do graduating seniors each year! Aubrey completed a student-teaching experience at the district's new microschool...working alongside her former second-grade teacher as her mentor! She had the opportunity to work with students across all grade levels to see what she liked, but really focused on grades 3-5, where she helped students grow their reading and math skills. This fall, she'll continue her education at Ball State University to pursue her dream of being a teacher.

To close out the presentation portion of the day, we heard from two recent graduates of Perry Central High School. Perry Central is a small rural school district with just one spotlight...and very few nearby employers. To overcome this, they had to think creatively to help their students gain work-based learning experience, ultimately allowing students to participate in full-day, midweek work-based learning opportunities in neighboring communities.

Justin, a graduate of Perry Central's Early College program, recently earned the new enrollment honors plus seal and the Indiana College Core. He paired a strong academic focus with his passion for technology and agriculture. While in high school, he interned at Thermwood Corporation, which specializes in large scale additive manufacturing. Justin will attend Purdue University in the fall to study agriculture engineering technology.

His classmate, **Tyler**, earned his associate degree in general education before graduating from high school. He also completed an engineering CTE pathway, gaining industry-recognized credentials in Revit, AutoCAD, and Fusion 360. The summer before his senior year, he took his learning to the field, where he interned with New Technology Group. During his senior year, he was able to continue his internship via a hybrid schedule and will continue to work there while attending the University of Southern Indiana for electrical engineering this fall.

These are just a few of the incredible examples of how students can explore their interests, gain real world experience, and give themselves a leg up on their future. Hearing directly from students reinforced why this work is so important and how Indiana's federal waiver will encourage these opportunities for even more students in the future!

This waiver is a win for Indiana and will allow us to continue to improve and keep our foot on the gas pedal for each student. So to every educator, parent, and change-agent across Indiana...thank you for your partnership. Thank you for your leadership. And thank you for everything you do for our Indiana students.

Let's keep up the momentum!

Legislative Guidance

REMINDER: 2026 Legislative Guidance

Following the close of each legislative session, the Indiana Department of Education (IDOE) immediately begins working to implement newly-enacted legislation impacting K-12 education, which includes compiling [guidance for schools and educators](#). This guidance is a product of robust cross-agency collaboration and partnership with countless stakeholders. This is an iterative document that will continue to be updated and improved in collaboration with educators.

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

REMINDER: Internet Safety Month Speaker Series

National Internet Safety Month is observed every June to raise awareness and promote secure digital practices. Live sessions led by experts in the field will continue over the next week. Visit the Indiana Learning Lab calendar to learn more, and register [here](#). Live sessions from expert speakers and curated resources in the Indiana Learning Lab align directly with [Indiana Code \(IC\) 20-30-6.1-4](#) to provide educators, families, and students internet safety education. Contact IDOE's [Digital Learning Team](#) with any questions.

Office of Educator Talent and Literacy Center

NEW: Coming Soon - Registration for Free Keys to Literacy Professional Development

To support Indiana educators in earning the early literacy endorsement, free professional development will once again be offered through Keys to Literacy. This free 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, but space is limited. Educators who have previously enrolled are not eligible. Registration will be available [here](#) beginning Wednesday, July 1. Contact IDOE's [Literacy Center](#) with questions.

REMINDER: Now Accepting Nominations for the 2027 Indiana Teacher of the Year

The Indiana Teacher of the Year Program works to inspire, rejuvenate, and celebrate the teaching profession by recognizing outstanding teachers from across the state. Schools are encouraged to participate in the state's annual selection process which is now open and concludes in fall 2026. Local schools and Teacher(s) of the Year are encouraged to complete [this application](#) by 5 p.m. ET on Friday, July 3, as the first step in the application process. More information regarding the Indiana Teacher of the Year selection process can be found [here](#). Contact intoy@doe.in.gov with any questions.

Office of School Finance

NEW: Fund Transfers Resulting from House Enrolled Act 1210-2026

Please see [this memo](#) that details the accounting procedures for school corporations that are opting to allocate the effect of the supplemental homestead credits across the property tax funds. Please email schoolfinance@doe.in.gov with questions about the procedures.

REMINDER: Fiscal Year (FY) 2027 Indirect Cost Rates

The FY 2027 Indirect Cost Rates are available [here](#) and in the Indirect Costs folder of [Moodle](#). School corporations that received certified rates will receive an individual email with the calculation information. Please contact icr@doe.in.gov with any questions.

REMINDER: School Technology Advancement Account (STAA) Applications

School corporations may file an application for an STAA through Friday, July 17. The STAA application can be completed [online](#) and must be completed in one session. A sample application and certification page can be found in [Moodle](#). Contact commonschoolfund@doe.in.gov with any questions.

REMINDER: June Workshop

Using the same format as last year, the June Workshop videos will be posted in the Public School Finance Community on Moodle (key: PSCOM). At that time, a question form will also be available for school personnel. On Tuesday, June 23, at 10 a.m. ET, IDOE's Office of School Finance will hold an office hours session to answer questions received through this process. Please email schoolfinance@doe.in.gov with questions about the workshop.

Office of Student Pathways and Opportunities

NEW: Hoosier Launch Initiative

Indiana will release a Request for Information (RFI) for any platform interested in partnering with the state on Hoosier Launch. As schools continue to share feedback on the resources and supports that would be most helpful in implementing Indiana's new diploma requirements and readiness seals, one message we have heard on repeat is the opportunity to leverage existing local partnerships, while simultaneously improving how we support students in achieving their unique future goals. Hoosier Launch directly reflects this feedback, providing a coordinated approach to expanding and strengthening college and career readiness tools across the platforms many schools already use today. For more information, click [here](#) or contact engagement@doe.in.gov.

Office of Special Education, English Learning, and Migrant Education

NEW: IDEA Part B Reimbursement Requests

To encourage schools to spend down their Part B grant balances in a timely manner, IDOE's Office of Special Education asks that all reimbursement requests be submitted within one month of expenses, on the first or 15th of the month, rather than holding reimbursement requests until the end of the award period. If your school corporation is not current with your IDEA Part B reimbursements, we request that you submit expense reimbursements through Sunday, May 31, by Thursday, June 30. This can be submitted by email to specialpartb@doe.in.gov with "FY2025 or FY2026 reimbursement form" in the subject line.

NEW: FY 2025-2026 Behavior Grant Reimbursement Requests

The FY 2025-2026 Behavior Grant will close on Thursday, June 30. Submit reimbursement requests by email to osebehaviorgrant@doe.in.gov with "FY25-26 Behavior Grant Reimbursement" in the subject line.

REMINDER: Summer Spotlight Session - Open Q&A for English Learners (ELs)

IDOE's English Learning team will be hosting a virtual session on Monday, June 22, at 10 a.m. ET to serve as an open Q&A opportunity for educators and leaders to ask general EL-related questions for the upcoming school year. Time will be reserved for live questions and answers from the field. 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: FY 2025 Part B Grant Proportionate Share Release Request Forms Will Be Available Wednesday, July 1

The FY 2025 Part B 611 and 619 grant proportionate share release forms will be available on Wednesday, July 1, 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.

REMINDER: Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) Part B Reimbursements

IDOE is currently compiling data for the Annual Comprehensive Financial Report (ACFR), which includes all IDEA Part B expenses. Schools must submit individual requests for expenses up to and through Tuesday, June 30, and expenses as of Wednesday, July 1. Separate reimbursement requests for June and July should be submitted to specialpartb@doe.in.gov to avoid potential delay with your payment. Reimbursements are due on the first or 15th of the month. Contact IDOE's [Office of Special Education Part B Grants team](#) with any questions.

REMINDER: FY 2027 Special Education Grant Assurances Due Wednesday, July 1

The FY 2027 IDEA Part B Grant Assurance template and instructions for using the Grant Management System are now available here: [Moodle>Fiscal-Part B Grants for Special Education>FY27 Grant Information>Assurances](#). To reserve the earliest reimbursement effective date for the FY 2027 Part B grant period, schools must submit correctly completed Assurances for the FY 2027 Part B grants in the Grant Management System on or before Wednesday, July 1. Please contact partbgrants@doe.in.gov with any questions.

REMINDER: FY 2027 General Education Provision Act (GEPA) Forms Due Wednesday, July 1

To comply with Section 427 of GEPA, LEAs requesting IDEA Part B funds must have an approved GEPA statement of need on file. If an LEA needs to update its GEPA Section 427 form, a new form will need to be completed and uploaded to IDOE's grant management system. The GEPA form can be found in [Moodle>Fiscal-Part B Grants for Special Education>FY27 Grant Information>GEPA Section 427](#). All questions must be answered on the GEPA form. Contact partbgrants@doe.in.gov with additional questions.

REMINDER: Update to Home Language Survey (HLS) Amendment Process

To streamline processes and improve efficiency, all HLS amendment requests must be submitted via [Jotform](#) beginning Monday, March 30. Previously, amendments were submitted via fax to IDOE. Any amendments submitted via fax after this date may experience delays, as the fax inbox will no longer be monitored. Submission requirements, including the [HLS Amendment Form](#) and the original HLS, remain unchanged. Please contact IDOE's [Office of English Learning and Migrant Education](#) with questions.

Office of Title Grants and Support

NEW: Ed-Flex Waiver 2 and Waiver 4 Application Available Now

The following applications for ed-flex waivers are due by Friday, July 31:

- Ed-flex waiver #2, for Title I instructional paraprofessional requirement flexibility in the 2026-2027 school year, and
- Ed-flex waiver #4, for increased flexibility in Title IV funding requirements for the FY26 Title IV budget application.

Applications must be submitted annually, regardless of previous approval. More information about paraprofessional requirements and the application may be found [here](#).

For questions about ed-flex waiver #2, please contact bkronmiller@doe.in.gov.

For questions about ed-flex waiver #4, please contact TitleIV@doe.in.gov.

NEW: Risk Assessment Pending Questions

If you have any outstanding questions regarding your recently published Risk Assessment, please submit them to FederalMonitoring@doe.in.gov. We want to ensure that all inquiries are received and appropriately addressed.

UPDATE: FY 2027 Pre-Application

The Federal FY 2027/2027 Pre-Application is available through the [Title Grants Pre-Application Collection](#) in the Indiana Learning Lab. All instructions, forms, and submission information can be found within the collection. A registered [Learning Lab account](#) is needed to access the collection.

Please note that reimbursement eligibility for FY 2027 begins Wednesday, July 1, on the date on which the Pre-Application is submitted in reviewable PDF format—whichever is later. The recording on the Thursday, April 30, Quarterly Meeting is also now available in the collection.

Please contact Title@doe.in.gov with any questions.

REMINDER: June Coffee Chat

Please join IDOE's Title Grants and Support team for our June Coffee Chat at 10 a.m. ET on Thursday, June 25, where information will be shared regarding the FY 2027 Title I budget application. The session will be recorded and shared in the Indiana Learning Lab. Please ensure attendees register [here](#) as there will not be a regular meeting link. Contact Title@doe.in.gov with any questions.

Indiana Commission for Higher Education

REMINDER: Dual Credit/Enrollment and Advanced Placement (AP) Study

During the 2025 legislative session, the Indiana General Assembly tasked the Secretary of Education with reviewing current dual credit/enrollment initiatives and the AP program to make recommendations for expanding access to all Hoosier students and ensuring state funding is utilized most effectively and in alignment to the new Indiana high school diploma. School district and high school administrators, counselors, and teachers are invited to provide input through this [Jotform](#) by Wednesday, July 1. Please contact Doug.Harter@doe.in.gov with additional questions.

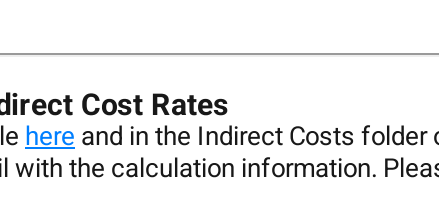
News from Our Partners

NEW FROM THE WILSON EDUCATION SERVICE CENTER (WESC): EL Summer Professional Development - Live and On-Demand

[Register now](#) for virtual summer professional development, providing teachers with tools and resources to support multilingual learners.

- **Session 1: Wednesday, June 24, from 9 to 11 a.m. ET** - Explore how Artificial Intelligence and technology can enhance communication, support content learning, and boost language development and engagement for multilingual learners. National presenters include Dr. Irina McGrath and Dr. Michelle Shory.
- **Session 2: Wednesday, June 24, from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. ET (FREE)** - Learn more about navigating IDOE resources for EL coordinators and EL Teachers of Record (TORs) with a practical, beginner-friendly overview of IDOE guidance, platforms, Indiana EL Moodle community, and WIDA professional learning offerings.
- **Session 3: Thursday, June 25, from 9 to 11 a.m. ET** - Join Amy Hacker from Franklin Township for practical strategies for game-inspired approaches to the SIOP Model.

Registration closes today, Friday, June 19. For more information, contact [Dr. Donna Albrecht](mailto:Dr.Donna.Albrecht@wesc.org).



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