



## Dr. Jenner's Weekly Update

Weekly Newsletter from the Indiana Department of Education

January 17, 2025

### A Message from Dr. Katie Jenner

Earlier this week, Governor Mike Braun was sworn in as the 52nd Governor of the state of Indiana. As you may know, Governor Braun has set up his administration team with eight key verticals: management and budget, commerce, health and family services, public safety, energy and natural resources, transportation and infrastructure, business affairs, and education.

Within our education vertical, we have several state agencies and boards coming together to help drive efficiency, accountability, and communication, and ultimately allow us to better serve Hoosiers. This includes:

- Indiana Department of Education,
- State Board of Education,
- Commission for Higher Education,
- Charter School Board,
- Education Employee Relations Board,
- Indiana School for the Deaf,
- Indiana School for the Blind and Visually Impaired, and
- Indiana State Library

Together, we are approximately 60% of Indiana's state budget (approximately \$26 billion over the biennium) and are charged with building a strong foundation and a streamlined education path for the people of Indiana.

With the 2025 legislative session in full swing, that means long days at the Statehouse and frequent discussions with legislators on both sides of the aisle, as well as teachers, principals, superintendents, school business officials... Just to name a few this week! As with any legislative session, there are a variety of different bills that will be discussed... some we like, some we'll work to help improve, and many that (while filed) will never even be heard in committee. It is a lengthy process where bills are constantly evolving, and together, we must keep our focus on making a positive impact for our students.

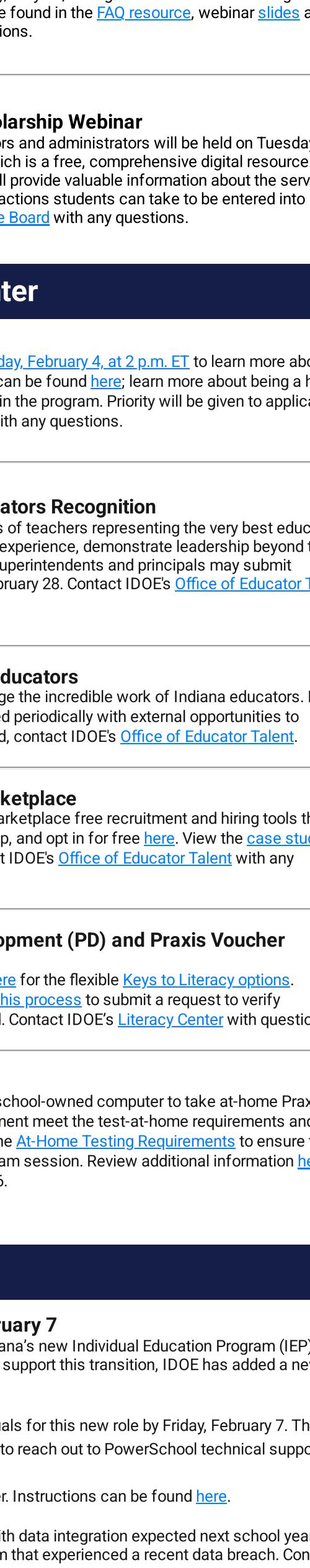
One of Governor Braun's first agenda bills was heard in committee this week, which is a bill focused on increasing teacher compensation. I joined the Senate Education and Career Development Committee on Wednesday to introduce this legislation on behalf of Governor Braun, and today I'd like to highlight some key aspects of the bill:

- **Boosts Teacher Pay:** The average teacher salary has continued to go up in Indiana and is now over \$46,000. This bill continues to move the needle on this topic by increasing the base salary from \$40K to \$45K and directing at least 65% of schools' state tuition support toward teacher compensation (currently 62%) to put more money in teachers' pockets.
- **Improves Benefits:** Expands health insurance options and guarantees teacher access to professional benefits, including parental leave.
- **Rewards High-Performing Teachers & Teachers in High-Need Content Areas:** Provides financial incentives for teachers in high-demand roles, as well as teachers demonstrating improved student outcomes.
- **Strengthens Our Teacher Pipeline:** Helps us to recruit additional teachers, both in Indiana and beyond, and continues to ensure quality teacher preparation programs by improving transparency and accountability.

In addition to this bill, Governor Braun also released his budget proposal yesterday. This includes a 2% increase to K-12 tuition support in fiscal year 2026 (\$181 million) and an additional 2% increase in fiscal year 2027 (\$365 million). In what is a very tight budget, this is a positive starting point for K-12 education, and we must continue to advocate for these tuition support increases over the next few months.

There are certainly other bills that we will advocate for throughout the session and will share additional updates in the weeks ahead. I look forward to working alongside Governor Braun, the General Assembly, educators, parents, and other stakeholders to build on our positive momentum and keep our foot on the gas pedal for students.

As always, thank you for all that you do for our students, and let's keep up the good work!



### Office of Accountability

#### REMINDER: Performance-Based Accreditation Petition Submission Window

The submission window for non-public schools to submit a [petition for performance-based state accreditation](#) is open through Wednesday, May 30. Petitions must be completed and submitted to IDEOE prior to the school year for which accreditation would begin. Schools may also submit a [Notice of Intent](#) to IDEOE prior to their intention to submit a petition. This petition only applies to non-accredited non-public schools that want to apply for performance-based (state) accreditation. Schools that already have performance-based accreditation do not need to apply. Contact IDEOE's [Office of School Accountability](#) with any questions.

### Office of Assessment

#### SHARE: ILEARN Hand-Scoring Applications Now Open

Educators are invited to apply to score open-ended student responses for the ILEARN assessments this spring. This opportunity will be remote and will occur from Tuesday, April 8, through Friday, May 23, during the ILEARN hand-scoring window. Applications must be submitted by Friday, May 12. More information can be found in the [FAQ resource](#), [webinar slides](#) and [recording](#), and [FAQ](#).

#### REMINDER: college Board's Big Scholarship & Opportunity Scholarship Webinar

College Board's Big Culture and Opportunity Scholarship Webinar for counselors and parents/guardians will be held on Tuesday, January 28, from 10 a.m. to 11 a.m. Participants will receive a free, comprehensive digital resource designed to help them prepare for their high school. This live webinar will provide valuable information about the services BigFuture offers as a career and college-planning tool and features students can take to be entered into monthly scholarship drawings. Register for the session [here](#). Contact [College Board](#) with any questions.

### Office of Educator Talent & Literacy Center

#### NEW: Learn About Hosting a Visiting Teacher from Spain

Register now to join IDEOE and the Embassy of Spain and Sagamore Report on [Tuesday, February 4, at 12 p.m. ET](#) to learn more about hosting a visiting teacher from Spain. Details on this 2025-2026 opportunity can be found [here](#). Learn more about being a host school. Districts can complete [this application](#) to express their interest in the program. Priority will be given to applications completed by Monday, March 31. Contact IDEOE's [Office of Educator Talent](#) with any questions.

#### REMINDER: Recommendations Open for Distinguished Educators Recognition

IDEOE's Office of Educator Talent is looking for confidential recommendations of teachers representing the very best educators in Indiana. These emerging leaders must have between five and 15 years of experience, demonstrate leadership beyond the classroom, and positively impact school culture and student achievement. Superintendents and principals may submit recommendations [here](#). Recommendations must be submitted by Friday, February 28. Contact IDEOE's [Office of Educator Talent](#) with any questions.

#### REMINDER: Additional Opportunities to Recognize Indiana Educators

Throughout the year, numerous opportunities arise nationwide to acknowledge the incredible work of Indiana educators. IDEOE's Office of Educator Talent has developed [this document](#), which will be updated periodically with external opportunities to recognize educators. To submit an educator recognition opportunity not listed, contact IDEOE's [Office of Educator Talent](#).

#### REMINDER: Opt-in to Utilize IDEOE's Supply and Demand Marketplace

It's not too late to sign up to utilize Indiana's Educator Supply and Demand Marketplace free recruitment and hiring tools through IDEOE's [partnership with Nimble](#). Click [here](#) to learn more about the partnership, and opt in for free [here](#). View the [case study](#) from one district that tripled their applicant volume using these tools. Contact IDEOE's [Office of Educator Talent](#) with any questions.

#### REMINDER: Early Literacy Endorsement Professional Development (PD) and Praxis Voucher Request

Educators who hold an Indiana professional educator license can register [here](#) for the flexible [Keys to Literacy options](#). Educators planning to earn Indiana's Early Literacy Endorsement can follow [this process](#) to submit a request to verify completion of the approved 80 hours and request a Praxis voucher, if needed. Contact IDEOE's [Literacy Center](#) with questions.

#### REMINDER: Praxis 5205 Test At-Home Guidance

Educators using test vouchers (or any payment method) who want to use a school-owned computer to take at-home Praxis exams should review and confirm that the computer equipment and environment meet the test-at-home requirements and that network security settings will not block the test platform software. Review the [At-Home Testing Requirements](#) to ensure the testing session will not be invalidated, thus requiring payment for another exam session. Review additional information [here](#). For support with Praxis, contact [ETS Praxis Customer Support](#) or 1-800-772-9476.

### Office of Information Technology

#### NEW: Identify New IEP/ILP Support Contracts by Friday, February 7

IDEOE is collaborating with PowerSchool Special Programs to implement Indiana's new Individual Education Program (IEP) and Individualized Learning Plan (ILP) software for the upcoming school year. To support this transition, IDEOE has added a new IEP/ILP Support role in the LINK Portal and Data Exchange system.

- **What's Needed:** Security coordinators must identify up to two individuals for this new role by Friday, February 7. These contacts will serve as system experts for the platform, be authorized to reach out to PowerSchool technical support, and receive applicable training on the role.
- **Assigning the Role:** Manually add contacts in the LINK Security role. Instructions can be found [here](#).

Student information system (SIS) vendors will be notified of this new role, with data integration expected next school year. Please note that PowerSchool Special Programs is separate from the system that experienced a recent data breach. Contact IDEOE's [IT Help Desk](#) with additional questions.

#### REMINDER: PowerSchool Data Breach

Due to a series of data breaches affecting some Indiana schools, while PowerSchool is managing incident response, IDEOE is simplifying state reporting for affected schools. Instead of compiling the standard data breach notification form on the Indiana Office of Technology (IOT) website, schools should contact IDEOE's Director of Educational Technology, [Brad Harg](#), who will report the breach on their behalf. Schools are encouraged to communicate updates to parents and families, consult with legal counsel, and notify their cybersecurity insurance provider, if applicable.

#### REMINDER: Fall 2024 Public Corporation Transfer Report Now Available

The school transfer report for fall 2024 is now available on IDEOE's [Data Center and Reports webpage](#). This report shows the breakdown of enrollment for each Indiana school based on whether the student lives in the school corporation (legal settlement) or is coming from another school corporation. Contact IDEOE's [Office of Information Technology](#) with any questions.

#### REMINDER: 2024-2025 Enrollment Data Now Available

The latest enrollment numbers for Indiana schools are now available on IDEOE's [Data Center and Reports webpage](#). Enrollment spreadsheets have been updated with a 2025 tab to provide the latest counts certified in October 2024. Contact IDEOE's [Office of Information Technology](#) with any questions.

#### REMINDER: Registration Open for Indiana Trusted Learning Environment (TLE) Cohorts

All Indiana schools are invited to participate in a no-cost opportunity to improve their student data privacy practices and data security, while pursuing national recognition under the [Consortium for School Networking \(CSN\) TLE Seal Program](#). Apply for your [here](#). Contact IDEOE's [Office of Information Technology](#) with additional questions.

#### REMINDER: Updated Data Request Process

IDEOE launched a new data request process to provide improved services, which includes detailed forms tailored to the type of data being requested. Contact IDEOE's [Office of Information Technology](#) with any questions.

#### REMINDER: Nationwide Cybersecurity Review (NCSR) Now Open

Completion of the NCSR is required if your school is receiving services under the State and Local Cybersecurity Grant Program (SLCP). NCSR is a no-cost, anonymous, annual cybersecurity self-assessment designed to measure gaps and capabilities of school cybersecurity programs and based on the National Institute of Standards and Technology Cybersecurity Framework (NIST CSF). Complete this year's NCSR by registering [here](#). Contact IDEOE's [Office of Information Technology](#) with any questions.

#### REMINDER: No-Cost Cybersecurity Services Now Available Through IOT/SLCP

IOT provides no-cost services to all public schools in Indiana, which includes:

- **CrowdStrike Falcon Complete Licenses for all staff workstations and servers:** Provides software that is monitored by a 24/7 secure operations center, automatically detects/blocks cyber threats, and allows cyber professionals to respond and alert your IT team.
- **KnowBe4 for all staff workstations:** Provides access to conduct phishing exercises with staff and offers video training and resources.
- **Udemy for all IT and central office employees:** Provides access to a comprehensive training library including cybersecurity, IT/central office, leadership development, office suite, and project management courses.
- **Cybersecurity assessments:** Provide a no-cost cybersecurity assessment of your schools cybersecurity processes, including a final report and recommendations for next steps that can be shared with school leadership/school board members.

Access more information on IOT services [here](#), and contact IDEOE's [Office of Information Technology](#) with additional questions.

### Office of School Building Security & Safety

#### NEW: Student Safety Reporting

Per Indiana Code (IC) 20-3-6-1, corporations must report student bullying, arrests, and gang data for each school to IDEOE. These new submissions are now included on the IDEOE's [Report of Discipline](#) report via Data Exchange. This data collection is now open and will close Monday, June 30. Contact your school corporation's data administrator with questions about submitting this data. Learn more [here](#) and in IDEOE's [Knowledge Hub](#).

#### NEW: School Staff Injury Reporting Requirements

IC 20-19-3-7.5 and IC 20-26-5-2 require public schools to report certain employee injury information to IDEOE if the employee is physically injured on the job by a direct action of a student. Additional details can be found in [this memo](#). The annual data collection closes Monday, June 30. Schools will report through certified data submission via [Data Exchange](#). Additional guidance and instructions regarding the data submission for the 2024-2025 school year can be found in IDEOE's [Knowledge Hub](#).

#### Office of School & Community Nutrition

#### NEW: Approved Reimbursable Summer School Course List

The [Approved Reimbursable Summer School Course List](#) for the 2024-2025 school year is now available on the IDEOE's [Summer School Courses for 2025](#), which can be found [here](#). Contact IDEOE's [Office of School Finance](#) with additional questions.

#### REMINDER: Form 9 Submissions Now Open

Form 9 submissions for the period of July 2024 through December 2024 are due to IDEOE by Friday, January 31. Contact [form9@ideoe.in.gov](#) with any questions.

#### REMINDER: Jan 28, Tuition & Tuition Support Payment Due

Any Indiana school corporation that receives state funding for tuition and tuition support must make payment by January 28, 2025. Additional information regarding the Academic Performance Grant can be found [here](#). Contact IDEOE's [Tuition & Tuition Support](#) with any questions.

#### REMINDER: Indirect Cost Rates for Fiscal Year (FY) 2026

The Office of School Support and Transformation is now accepting applications from local education agencies (LEAs) eligible to receive FY 2026 indirect costs. All interested LEAs are invited to submit their applications via the [FY 2026 Indirect Cost Application](#). New Charter Schools in Indiana are eligible to apply for FY 2026.

#### Office of Student Pathways and Opportunities

#### NEW: IDEOE's Keep Indiana Learning, Counselor Connect Webinar

IDOE and Indiana Learning are hosting a [Counselor Connect](#) on Thursday, January 23, at 10 a.m. ET to discuss the new Indiana's [Keep Indiana Learning](#) program.

#### REMINDER: 2024-2025 School Year Graduation Pathways Webinar

The graduation report for the 2024-2025 school year is now available on IDEOE's [Data Center and Reports webpage](#). The top ten topics for this year's graduation report are:

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