



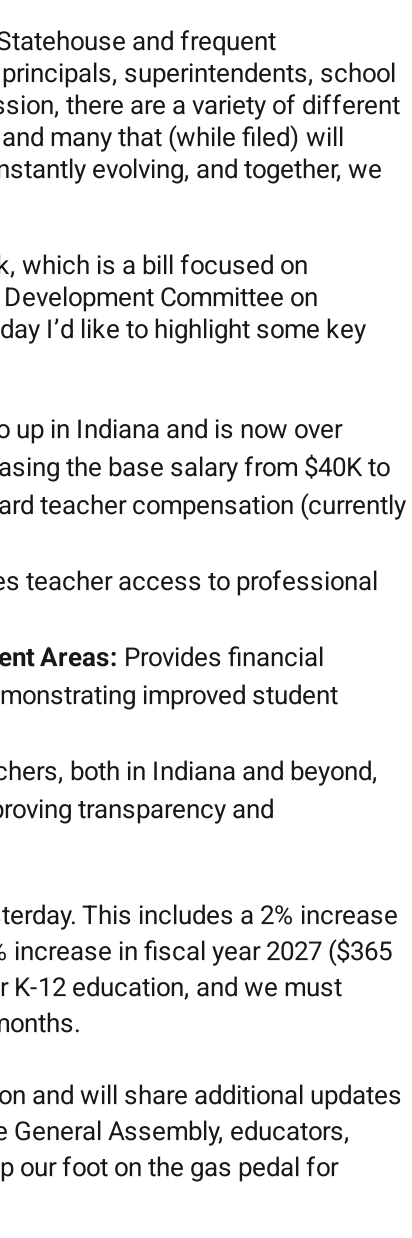
INDIANA DEPARTMENT of EDUCATION

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 Employer 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 positive impacts 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, April 30. Petitions must be collected and submitted to IDOE prior to the scheduled year for which accreditation would be applied to the bill.

- Boosts Teacher Pay:** The average teacher salary has continued to go up in Indiana and is now over \$60,000. This bill continues to move the needle on this topic by increasing the base pay 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 year, 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 Period Submission Window

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

Office of Assessment

SHARERS: ILEARN Hand-Scored Applications Now Open

Edutors 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, March 14. More information can be found in the [FAQ resource](#), [webinar slides](#), and [recording](#), and [live](#). Contact the [BC Forward Help Desk](#) with additional questions.

REMINDER: College Board's BigFuture and Opportunity Scholarship Webinar

College Board's BigFuture and Opportunity Scholarship Webinar for counselors and administrators will be held on Tuesday, January 28, from 10 to 11 a.m. ET. Participants will learn about BigFuture, which is a free, comprehensive digital resource designed to help students plan for life after high school. This live webinar will provide valuable information about the services BigFuture offers as a career and college planning tool and will highlight the actions 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 Visiting Teacher from Spain

Register now to join IDOE and the Embassy of Spain and Sagamore on [Tuesday, February 4, at 2 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 [here](#). Districts can complete [this application](#) to express their interest in the program. Priority will be given to applications completed by Monday, March 31. Contact IDOE's [Office of Educator Talent](#) with any questions.

REMINDER: Recommendations Open for Distinguished Educators Recognition

IDOE'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 IDOE'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. IDOE'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 IDOE's [Office of Educator Talent](#).

REMINDER: Opt-In to Utilize IDOE'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 IDOE's [partnership with Nimble](#). Click [here](#) to learn more about the partnership, and opt in for free [here](#). View the [case study](#) through one of our districts that tripled their applicant volume using these tools. Contact IDOE's [Office of Educator Talent](#) with any questions.

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

IDOE and who hold an Indiana professional educator license can register [here](#) for the flexible [Keys to Literacy](#) online. 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 IDOE's [Literacy Center](#) with questions.

REMINDER: Praxis 5205 Test At-Home Guidance

Educators wishing to use the at-home method of taking the test will need 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 to Fulfill, February 7

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

- What's Needed:** System 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 Power. 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 IDOE's [IT Help Desk](#) with additional questions.

REMINDER: PowerSchool Data Breach

IDOE is aware of the nationwide data breach affecting some Indiana schools. While PowerSchool is managing incident response, IDOE is simplifying state data reporting for affected schools. Instead of completing the standard data breach notification form on the Indiana Office of Technology's (IOT's) website, schools should contact IDOE's Director of Educational Technology, [Brad Hagg](#), 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 IDOE'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 continuing at another school corporation. Contact IDOE's [Office of Information Technology](#) with any questions.

REMINDER: 2024-2025 Enrollment Data Now Available

The latest enrollment numbers for fall Indiana schools are now available on IDOE'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 IDOE's [Office of Information Technology](#) with any questions.

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

Indiana schools are invited to participate in a no-cost opportunity to improve their student data privacy practices and data security while maintaining national recognition under the [Consent to Share Student Information Act \(CSA\)](#). Apply for the program [here](#). Contact IDOE's [Office of Information Technology](#) with additional questions.

REMINDER: Updated Data Request Process

IDOE launched a new [data request process](#) to provide improved service, which includes detailed forms tailored to the type of data being requested. Contact IDOE'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 (SLCGP). NCSR is a no-cost, anonymous, annual cyber security 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 IDOE's [Office of Information Technology](#) with any questions.

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

IOT provides fast-cost services to all public schools an 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 certification, leadership development, office suite, and project management courses.
- Cybersecurity assessments:** Provides a no-cost cybersecurity assessment of your school's 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 IDOE's [Office of Information Technology](#) with additional questions.

Office of School Building Security & Safety

NEW: Student Safety Reporting

Pursuant to Indiana Code (IC) 20-34-1-1, corporations must report student bullying, arrests, and gang data for each school to IDOE. These submissions are now included on the DOE's Report (discipline report) via Data Exchange. This data collection is now open and will close Monday, June 30. Contact your school corporation data administrator with questions about submitting this data. Learn more [here](#) and in IDOE's [Knowledge Hub](#).

NEW: School Staff Injury Reporting Requirements

IC 20-19-3-27.5 and IC 20-26-5-42 require public schools to report certain employee injury information to IDOE 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 is due Monday, June 30. Schools may report through certified data users, or directly to IDOE's [Data Exchange](#). Additional guidance and instructions regarding the data submission for the 2024-2025 school year can be found in IDOE's [Knowledge Hub](#).

Office of School & Community Nutrition

NEW: America's Healthiest Schools Award

Alliance for a Healthier Generation's signature award program honors schools for the key role they play in advancing the health and wellness of students, staff, and family. Any public or non-public school can apply for national recognition, with applications due Tuesday, April 15. The alliance has several resources to help you with your application:

- Watch a [quick video tour of the application](#).
- Register for a [live webinar on Thursday, January 23, at 11 a.m. ET](#) to learn about the award criteria and application process.
- Download the [guide to view the application offline](#).

Office of School Finance

NEW: Period Two Membership Census Date

The census date for period two membership is Monday, February 3. Read [this memo](#) regarding the February membership count date. Schools should work with their SIS to report data and resolve any issues. Contact IDOE's [Office of Information Technology](#) with additional questions.

NEW: Approved Reimbursable Summer School Course List

The State Board of Education (SBOE) approved the list of reimbursable summer school courses for 2025, which can be found [here](#). Contact IDOE's [Office of Information Technology](#) with additional questions.

REMINDER: Form 9 Submissions Now Open

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

REMINDER: January Tuition Support Payment

Review [this memo](#) regarding the January Tuition Support payment. Additional information regarding the Academic Performance Grant can be found [here](#). Contact IDOE's [Office of School Finance](#) with any questions.

REMINDER: Indirect Cost Rates for Fiscal Year 2026

The Office of School Finance is now accepting applications from local education agencies (LEAs) eligible to receive FY 2026 Indirect Cost Rates. School corporations and charter schools that provided Form 9 financial information for FY 2024 are eligible to receive a restricted and an unrestricted indirect cost rate in FY 2026. New charter schools are eligible to apply but will be subject to the median rate. [This memo](#) includes the application instructions. Contact [form9@doe.in.gov](#) with any questions.

Office of School Support and Transformation

REMINDER: Annual 1003 Flexibility Waivers

IDOE's Office of School Support and Transformation is now accepting applications for 1003 Flexibility Waivers. Flexibility through waivers is offered to help support schools in their design efforts to improve student performance and outcomes, improve the efficiency of school operations, and promote innovative educational approaches to student learning. Interested educators may request a waiver for any of the following categories: (Next Gen SIG). Expert partners must take a strategic approach to reimagine educational opportunities available to Indiana students. Interested organizations can read more about this opportunity in [this memo](#). The application process will be opening soon through the Indiana Department of Administration (DOA) website. Contact IDOE's [Office of School Support and Transformation](#) with any questions.

Office of Student Pathways and Opportunities

NEW: IDOE & Keep Indiana Learning, Counselor Connect Webinar

IDOE is transitioning from Indiana IEP to a new platform for managing IEPs. Join our webinar on Thursday, January 23, at 10 a.m. ET over the new Indiana diploma. Register now for this session [here](#). Contact IDOE's [Office of Student Pathways and Opportunities](#) with any questions.

NEW: January 2024-2025 School Year Graduation Pathways Webinars

The January Graduation Pathways webinar will take place on Thursday, January 30. The topic for this webinar is Indiana's new diploma and its requirements. Register for all 2024-2025 school year webinar dates, times, and links. Contact IDOE's [Office of Student Pathways and Opportunities](#) with any questions.

REMINDER: Graduation Pathways Office Hours

Graduation Pathways Office Hours have been canceled for January 2025. Office hours will resume in February 2025. Contact IDOE's [Office of Student Pathways and Opportunities](#) with any questions.

REMINDER: Feedback Requested on New Diploma Course Eligibility

As Indiana prepares to implement the new Indiana requirements, stakeholders are invited to provide feedback on course eligibility and its requirements. Review [this document](#) for all 2024-2025 school year diploma requirements. Review the draft course eligibility memo [here](#) and share your feedback [here](#).

Office of Student, School, and Family Engagement

REMINDER: Mental Health Partnerships Webinar

Join IDOE on Thursday, January 23, from 11 a.m. to noon ET for a webinar regarding school mental health partnerships. The Division of Mental Health and Addiction will take a deep dive into the new Indiana Partnership between schools and mental health agencies. Register [here](#) and contact IDOE's [Office of Student, School, and Family Engagement](#) with any questions.

Office of Special Education, English Learning, and Migrant Education

NEW: U.S. Department of Education (ED) Principal Navigator for Special Educator Retention

ED released [new guidance](#) highlighting the critical importance of retaining special educators in their positions and the crucial role principals play in retaining special education personnel. The [Principal Navigator for Special Educator Retention](#) includes 12 strategies and 13 best practices for retention. Register for the [webinar on Thursday, February 28, 11 a.m. ET](#). Applications for less commonly taught languages, with financial need, and from a variety of school districts. Applications will be accepted on a rolling basis through Saturday, April 5. Complete the nomination form [here](#). For more information, visit IDOE's [Certificate of Multilingual Proficiency webpage](#). Contact IDOE's [Office of English Learning and Migrant Education](#) with any questions.

REMINDER: English Learner (EL) Technical Assistance Menu

IDOE's Office of English Learning and Migrant Education is pleased to share the [EL Technical Assistance Menu](#), which provides an overview of the EL assistance available to Indiana schools with examples. This resource is housed in the [Indiana English Learners Content Module](#). Contact IDOE's [Office of English Learning and Migrant Education](#) with questions.

REMINDER: Non-Public School Consultation Documentation - Submit by Friday, February 7

All public local educational agencies (LEAs) that have a fiscal year (FY) 2025 Part B proportionate share requirement must scan and email the following documentation to IDOE's [Part B grants team](#) by Friday, February 7.

- Written affirmation of timely and meaningful consultation (pursuant to 34 CFR §300.134) signed by representatives of participating non-public schools and parents of parentally placed non-public school students with disabilities (pursuant to 34 CFR §300.135).
- If the representatives do not provide written affirmation within a reasonable period of time, the LEA must forward documentation of the non-public consultation process.
- This documentation must be submitted by each LEA that is required to set aside a proportionate share of its FY 2025 Part B grant funds for provision of equitable services (specialized instruction and related services) to parentally placed students with disabilities attending non-public schools, including home schools, located within their district boundaries.

Contact IDOE's [Part B grants team](#) with additional questions.

REMINDER: Required Part B Proportionate Share Office Hours

IDOE's Office of Special Education Part B team will host office hours to assist local educational agencies (LEAs) with completing the FY 2024 and 2025 611 and 619 Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) Part B grants Semi-Annual Proportionate Share Monitoring Reports. All LEAs that have proportionate share on their IDEA Part B grants must attend one of the 60-minute Microsoft Teams sessions, which include a short presentation and time for individual questions. Join one of the sessions below:

- [Wednesday, January 15, at 11 a.m. ET](#)
- [Friday, January 24, at 11 a.m. ET](#)

Contact IDOE's [Part B grants team](#) with additional questions.

Office of Teaching and Learning, Digital Learning, and Kindergarten Readiness

NEW: Building Healthy Digital Citizens Collection

IDOE has created a four-part collection based on the book "Digital for Good" examining ways in which together we can promote healthy digital practices and have meaningful conversations about behaviors in our digital communities. Each session gives practical examples, actions steps, and tips for modeling positive online interactions. View the full collection [here](#). Contact [Knowledge Hub](#) with any questions.

UPDATED: Pre-Service Educator Workshops

IDOE and Indiana University-Bloomington (IU) have partnered to build computing capacity for pre-service computer science (CS) education. In these sessions, representatives from IU will share how educators preparing to enter into classrooms are ready to implement computer science concepts. View the first session, CS for Social Good: Integrating CS and Project Based Learning on-demand in the Indiana Learning Lab [here](#). Contact IDOE's [Office of Digital Learning](#) with any questions.

REMINDER: January PD with IDOE

Join IDOE on Wednesday, January 22, at 4 p.m. ET with *Empower Indiana Students to Compete in the U.S. Economics* and presented by Julie Smith-Dwyer, Center for Economic Growth. Register for workshops or view on-demand sessions, create a free Learning Lab account by visiting the [LINK Portal](#) or the [Indiana Learning Lab](#) directly and use your school email address to login. Contact IDOE's [Office of Digital Learning](#) with any questions.

REMINDER: Artificial Intelligence (AI) PD Series

Join us for the first two sessions in a new PD series on AI in education. This series kicks off with *Demystifying AI: Essentials for Educators* Tuesday, January 21, at 4 p.m. ET and *Teacher-Driven AI: Crafting Safe Spaces, Tools, and Tutorials...Oh My!* on Thursday, January 23, at 4 p.m. ET. Register to attend [here](#). Contact IDOE's [Office of Digital Learning](#) with any questions.

Office of Title Grants and Support

REMINDER: Cohort Two of Ed-Flex Waiver Now Available

All LEAs that previously approved Ed-Flex waivers must reapply for the 2024-2025 school year [here](#). The deadline to apply for Cohort 2 of the Ed-Flex Waiver program is Friday, February 15, to give you time to complete the application. The deadline for Cohort 1 of the Ed-Flex Waiver program is Friday, November 15. The application for waiver one (up to 25% carryover for FY 2024 to FY 2025) is due Sunday, March 30. If your LEA has not received a waiver application extension or still needs to submit an application, contact IDOE's [Brittney Kronmiller](#).

REMINDER: Quarterly Meeting Schedule for 2024-2025 School Year

IDOE's Office of Title Grants and Support will host quarterly meetings with updates regarding federal grants. Meetings will be hosted at 10 a.m. ET on the following dates:

- [Thursday, March 6](#)
- [Thursday, May 8](#)

Contact IDOE's [Office of Title Grants and Support](#) with any questions.

REMINDER: Save the Date for TitleCon 2025

TitleCon 2025 will bring together hundreds of Indiana educators including superintendents, principals, program administrators, and fiscal representatives from across the state, and non-public schools across the state. This two-day conference on Wednesday, April 16, and Thursday, April 17, will feature keynote speakers and breakout sessions designed to provide schools with programmatic and fiscal guidance to advance federal education programs in their respective communities. This year's guest speaker is Professor John Smith-Dwyer, Center for Economic Growth. Register for workshops or view on-demand sessions, create a free Learning Lab account by visiting the [LINK Portal](#) or the [Indiana Learning Lab](#) directly and use your school email address to login. Contact IDOE's [Office of Digital Learning](#) with any questions.

REMINDER: The Horatio Alger Association: Scholarship Opportunity for High School Juniors

The Horatio Alger Association is seeking students who display integrity and perseverance in overcoming adversity and plan to pursue higher education. Students must have financial need and a determination to turn their adversity into opportunity and pursue their American dream. Click [here](#) to attend the live info session in January. Applications are due Saturday, March 1. Apply [here](#).

REMINDER FROM TEACH INDY: Register for the 2025 Educators Conference

Join the Teach Indy team at the 2025 Educators Conference at the Ivy Tech Community College University and Conference Center on Saturday, March 1. This year, sessions will dive deep into the heart of Indiana's classrooms to uncover the most effective teaching strategies. You'll hear directly from educators who are making a difference every day. Get inspired, learn new techniques, and connect with like-minded professionals. All current and aspiring educators are welcome. Click [here](#) for more information. Contact [Teach Indy](#) with any questions.

REMINDER FROM COMMISSION FOR HIGHER EDUCATION: Newsletter Sign Up

Individuals can sign up to receive newsletters [here](#) from the Indiana Commission for Higher Education (CHE) Career and Technical Education (CTE) team. Contact the [CHE](#) with questions.

Weekly Updates

View previous weekly updates from Dr. Katie Jenner [here](#).

Stay Informed

Did you miss a message? View previous weekly emails [here](#).

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