

Dr. Jenner's Weekly Update

Weekly Newsletter from the Indiana Department of Education

January 24, 2025

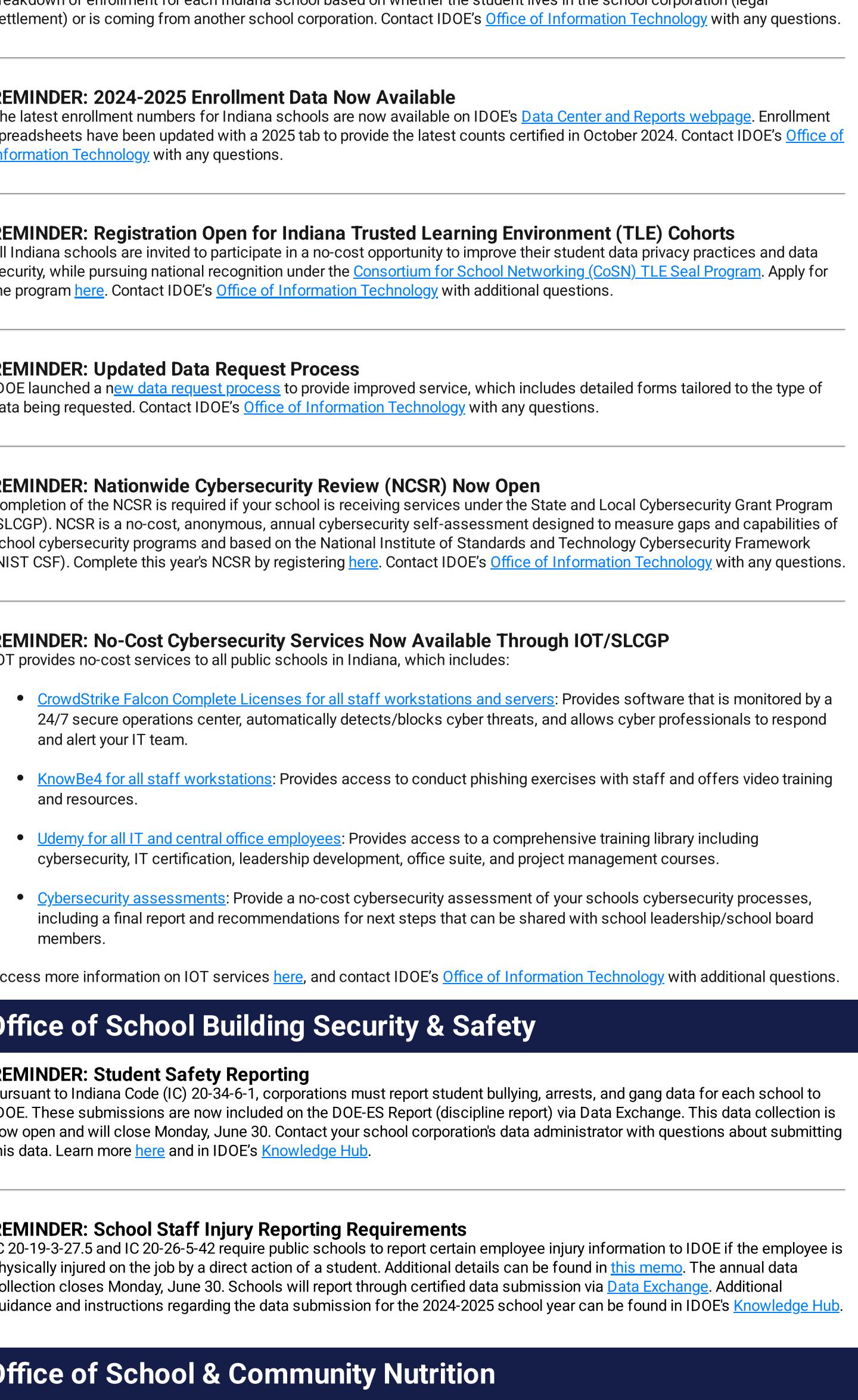
A Message from Dr. Katie Jenner

Last month, over the course of two days, we had the opportunity to celebrate two outstanding Indiana educators by helping present them with the prestigious Milken Educator Award. These teachers are just two of the many educators across the state who work every day to make a difference in the lives of our students.

At Ripley Junior High School, seventh and eighth grade teacher [Katie Lauter](#) sat in a convocation she thought was celebrating the district's work to become a Cognia District of Distinction, but was shocked to find out she was a 2024 Milken Educator Award winner and received \$25,000 (awarded by MFF). Ms. Lauter ensures each of her students reach their potential during their middle school years. Passionate about setting her students up for success, Ms. Lauter also designs and leads an eighth-grade creative writing class for high school credit, which allows students to get acclimated to the rigor of high school. This is just one of many examples of what makes her such a successful and impactful educator.

The next day, in Waterford, entrepreneurship teacher [Ashley Johnson](#) sat in the DeKalb High School gym watching an event celebrating the pathways work before hearing her name called to come collect a \$25,000 check (again, awarded by MFF). Ms. Johnson ensures the students in her entrepreneurship accounting, personal finance, and banking classes are equipped with knowledge and skills necessary to compete and excel wherever their life's path takes them. While there are many examples of what makes Ms. Johnson an amazing educator, one key aspect of her work is how she connects her classroom with the local community. She regularly invites local businesses to issue "real-life" challenges for the students to solve, then the students are able to work together to find solution ideas, providing significant relevancy to the students' learning.

Check out the video below to see just how surprised Mrs. Lauter and Ms. Johnson were to hear their names announced as Indiana's newest Milken Educator Award winners!



Office of Accountability

REMINDER: Synchronous and Asynchronous Instructional Days

As some schools continue to be impacted by winter weather, here is a reminder of the state statute regarding synchronous and asynchronous instructional days. Per statute, schools may have up to three asynchronous learning days each school year. Schools are not limited on the number of synchronous days. In the event a district needs to close due to inclement winter weather, districts are encouraged to flip in-person instruction days to synchronous or asynchronous instruction instead of completely cancelling instruction for the day. On a limited basis, following the use of all three allowed asynchronous days, superintendents may request to make up snow days using asynchronous days for the extra asynchronous used by the district during a closure due to weather. Districts are of course always able to make days up in person using built-in snow days. To the extent a district cannot make up a day via asynchronous instruction (i.e., power outages, etc.), please contact the department and note that the request cannot be made up via a day of power outage, etc.).

Office of Assessment

NEW: iLEARN Biology End-of-Course Assessment (ECA) Winter 2025 Testing Window Opens Monday, February 3

The iLEARN Biology ECA Winter 2025 online testing window is open Monday, February 3, through Friday, February 21. The paper-and-pencil testing window for the iLEARN Biology Fall 2024 ECA is open Monday, February 3, through Friday, February 21. Students must participate upon completion of the high school biology course. Find information regarding participation [here](#). IDOE will also conduct on-site monitoring visits to ensure the fidelity of test administration and security. Refer to the [iLEARN 2024-2025 Milestones](#) and [iLEARN Biology ECA Test Window Checklist](#) for an overview of deadlines. Contact IDOE's [Office of School Accountability](#) with any questions.

REMINDER: 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 occur from Tuesday, April 9, through Friday, May 23, in the iLEARN hand-scoring window. Applications must be submitted by Friday, March 14. More information can be found in the [EdHQ Resource](#), [webinar slides](#) and [application](#), and [flyer](#). Contact the [PC Forward Help Desk](#) with additional questions.

Office of Educator Talent & Literacy Center

NEW: Required Summer School Reading Support-Frequently Asked Questions

Answers to frequently asked questions related to summer school requirements for students in grades two and three can be found [here](#). Contact IDOE's [Literacy Center](#) for K-5 curricular materials or science of reading support, [Office of Student Assessment](#) for assessment support, or [Office of School Finance](#) for summer school program support.

REMINDER: Learn About Hosting Visiting Teacher from Spain

Register now to have the Embassy of Spain and Sagamore of the Knights of Columbus host a visiting teacher for the Indiana delegation in advancing the health and welfare of our country. Educators 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 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.

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 Nimbly](#). Click [here](#) to learn more about the partnership, and opt-in for free. View the [case study](#) from one district 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

Educators who hold an Indiana professional educator license can register [here](#) for the [Keys to Literacy](#) options. Educators planning to earn Indiana's Early Literacy Endorsement can follow [this process](#) 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 using test vouchers (or any payment method) need to review the Registration and Essential Checklist before registering for the Praxis 5205 [here](#). 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. Please review the [At-Home Testing Requirements](#) to ensure the testing session will not be invalidated, thus requiring payment for another exam session. For support with Praxis, contact [TTS Praxis Customer Support](#) or 1-800-772-9476.

Office of Information Technology

REMINDER: Identify New IEP/ILP Support Contacts by Friday, February 7

IDOE is collaborating with PowerSchool Spatial 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, IDOE has added a new IEP/ILP Support role in the PowerSchool 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 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 Program 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 reporting for affected schools. Instead of completing the standard data breach notification form on the Indiana Office of Technology (IOT) 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.

For more information, view [this document](#) for a step-by-step guide on how to report a data breach. This document also includes a link to the Indiana Department of Education's [Data Breach Reporting Form](#).

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 residence) or is coming from 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 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

All Indiana schools are invited to participate in a no-cost opportunity to improve their student data privacy practices and data security, while protecting their Indiana students' data. This program aligns with the Indiana State Data Privacy and Security Framework (NIST CSF). Complete this year's NCSF by registering [here](#). Contact IDOE'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:

• **CloudStrike Falcon Complete Licenses for all staff workstations and servers:** Provides software that is monitored by a 24/7 security 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, and project management courses.

• **Cybersecurity final assessments:** Re-imagine data costs for cyber security tests that can be shared with your schools' cybersecurity/IT professionals, IT staff, and IT 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

REMINDER: Student Safety Reporting

REMINDER: Student Safety Reporting is now open for the 2024-2025 school year. Read [this memo](#) for more information. The Indiana membership count date Schools will be used to calculate the SIS membership count date for the 2024-2025 school year. Contact IDOE's [Office of Information Technology](#) with additional questions.

REMINDER: Form 9 Submissions Open for Distinguishing 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.

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Office of School Support and Transformation

REMINDER: Annual IOTC Flat-Rate Waivers

IDOE's Office of School Support and Transformation is now accepting applications for the 2024-2025 school year. Contact IDOE's [Office of Information Technology](#) with any questions.