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Dr. Jenner's Weekly Update

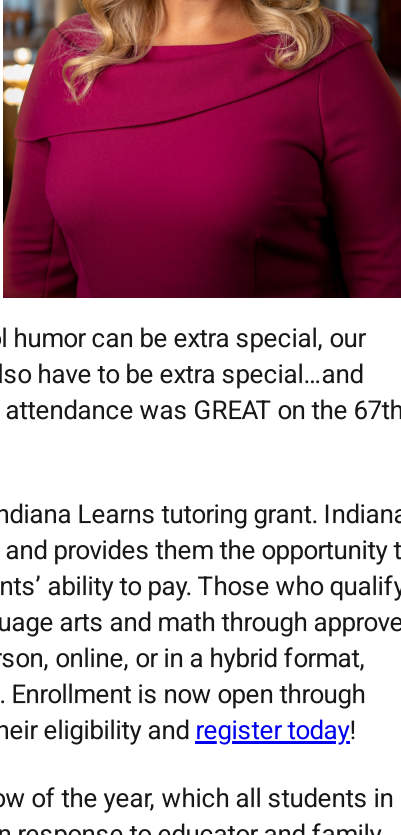
Weekly Newsletter from the Indiana Department of Education

November 14, 2025

A Message from Dr. Katie Jenner

As we head into the final weeks of the first half of the 2025-2026 school year, we also experienced our first measurable snowfall across many central and northern communities. Thank you to our schools for keeping students safe as winter weather begins to increase...and thank you to our educators for helping our students finish the semester strong!

Also... fun shout out to **Eastwood Middle School** – we see you (teachers and principals) celebrating the 67th day of the school year! While many schools call out the 100th day of learning, Eastwood Middle School decided “why fight it, when you can join them” (and have a little fun along the way!). For those who may be reading who don't work with kids, our schools nationwide have been inundated with a “6-7” trend that really means nothing other than kids yelling “6-7” anytime someone uses those numbers in sequence. Imagine... a history teacher saying in 1867...cue a classroom full of kids saying “6-7.” So, while middle school humor can be extra special, our middle school teachers and leaders (I used to be one too!) also have to be extra special...and fun...and willing to work with middle school humor. I bet your attendance was GREAT on the 67th day of school—here's the [video](#).



Earlier this week, we once again opened enrollment for the Indiana Learns tutoring grant. Indiana Learns specifically focuses on our most struggling students and provides them the opportunity to receive high-quality tutoring support, regardless of their parents' ability to pay. Those who qualify can use their \$1,000 grant to access tutoring in English/language arts and math through approved Learning Partners statewide. Tutoring is also available in-person, online, or in a hybrid format, giving families flexible options to meet their students' needs. Enrollment is now open through Friday, December 19, and I encourage all families to check their eligibility and [register today!](#)

On Monday, we'll open the second ILEARN checkpoint window of the year, which all students in grades 3–8 will complete. The ILEARN redesign—launched in response to educator and family feedback—was created to provide more **real-time, actionable data to support student learning** throughout the year.

The redesigned model includes [three Checkpoints](#) and a shorter end-of-year assessment. These Checkpoints are non-punitive and have already proven valuable in improving instruction and student outcomes. Last year, 75% of schools serving grades 3–8 participated in the pilot—about 1,350 schools—and more than 2.1 million tests were administered. Thousands of educators provided feedback, helping shape and improve the statewide implementation.

To support implementation, new resources are available for educators and families:

- **Updated ILEARN data reports** - provide item and performance level data. Cumulative reports also include a prediction probability for success on the ILEARN Summative assessment.
- **Increased support and transparency for parents and families** - beginning this school year, Cambium's [Indiana Family Portal](#) is available for families to view their child's assessment results and access support resources for ILEARN (Checkpoints & Summative), IREAD, and I AM.
 - The new [Family Portal FAQ](#) and [Brochure](#) provides information about the purpose of the Family Portal, how families can access it, and what resources are available for families. Your help in sharing these resources is essential!
- **Partnership with curriculum and intervention providers** - connects Checkpoint data to instructional supports, helping schools deliver targeted lessons and interventions.
- **ILEARN Assessment Frameworks and Instructional Frameworks** - these resources continue to be updated in collaboration with educators and educator preparation programs, and now include:
 - *Performance level descriptor (PLD) maps* for each assessment that vertically align assessed standards
 - *Performance level progressions* that tie concepts and skills to each PLD for next steps in instructions and interventions
 - *Item specifications for assessed standards* that outline content limits, clarification statements, academic vocabulary, and sample assessment items for each PLD
 - Item Specifications include links to:
 - Stimulus specifications - Align passages and other stimuli to grade level qualitative and quantitative expectations (e.g., formatting and text complexity)
 - Boilerplate language for specific item types (e.g., ELA Performance Tasks)
 - [Rubrics](#) for hand-scored items
 - Additional guidance documents for the assessment of specific standards: [word families](#), [Greek and Latin roots/affixes](#), [text features](#), [figurative language](#).

And there is **more** being developed that we will continue to share!

Thank you for taking the time to provide feedback during the pilot year and for digging into these resources and sharing them with your parents and families. And as always, thank you for all that you do for Indiana students!

Legislative Guidance

REMINDER: School Year 2025-2026 Teacher Appreciation Grant Allocations

Allocations and additional guidance for the School Year 2025-2026 Teacher Appreciation Grant (TAG) can be found [here](#). Recipients can anticipate distribution of funds before April 15, 2026. Questions may be directed to TAG@doe.in.gov.

Office of Assessment

REMINDER: Indiana's New Good Cause Exemption Dashboard

A new public dashboard provides transparent reading data at the state-, corporation-, and school-level. In 2025, Indiana achieved an unprecedented nearly five percentage point increase in third grade literacy rates. Statewide, 73,500 of Indiana's third grade students – or 87.3 percent – demonstrated proficient reading skills on the IREAD assessment. The new dashboard shows 2024-2025 IREAD pass rates for all school types, data on Good Cause Exemptions (GCE), and promotion status. Click [here](#) to view Indiana's new IREAD Good Cause Exemption Dashboard.

REMINDER: Register for Upcoming College Board Training Opportunities

School staff involved in PSAT and SAT School Day testing can register for College Board training opportunities to support test administration and post-testing data use. In-person workshops to support PSAT data use and to prepare STCs for the SAT School Day will be held from Wednesday, December 3, through Thursday, December 11. PSAT workshops will be held from 9 to 11:30 a.m. local time. SAT workshops will be held from 12:30 to 3 p.m. local time. Registration links can be found below:

- Wednesday, December 3: Evansville [PSAT | SAT School Day](#)
- Thursday, December 4: Sellersburg [PSAT | SAT School Day](#)
- Friday, December 5: Greenwood [PSAT | SAT School Day](#)
- Tuesday, December 9: Merrillville [PSAT | SAT School Day](#)
- Wednesday, December 10: Fort Wayne [PSAT | SAT School Day](#)
- Thursday, December 11: Indianapolis [PSAT | SAT School Day](#)

Virtual options are also available for those unable to attend in-person:

- Thursday, November 20, 10 to 11 a.m. ET: [Fall 2025 PSAT Data Workshop Webinar](#)
- Friday, December 12, 10 to 11:30 a.m. ET: [SAT School Day 2026 STC Workshop #1 Webinar](#)

Contact [College Board](#) with any questions.

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

NEW: Indiana Tiered Systems of Supports Toolkit for K-8 Mathematics Courses

Beginning with the 2026-2027 school year, public, charter, and accredited schools serving students in kindergarten through grade eight are required to provide interventions for students not achieving grade level standards in mathematics. In an effort to support the implementation of [Indiana Code \(IC\) 20-32-6.5-3](#) as outlined in this [memo](#), three grade-banded (K-2, 3-5, and 6-8) courses have been added to the [Indiana Learning Lab](#). These courses feature sessions on implementing data-based instruction, using formative assessments, analyzing student work, engaging in collaborative conversations, utilizing high-quality, evidence-based instructional strategies, and designing, implementing, and supporting a three-tiered system of student supports. These are asynchronous courses designed to be completed in a Professional Learning Community (PLC) environment. Contact IDOE's [Office of Curriculum and Instruction](#) with any questions.

NEW: A Tiered Systems of Supports Toolkit Facilitator Guide

The Indiana Department of Education (IDOE) has launched the *Indiana's Tiered System of Supports Toolkit for Mathematics*—a new set of courses designed to support the implementation of a multi-tiered system of supports across three grade bands: K-2, 3-5, and 6-8, as required by [IC 20-32-6.5-3](#) and outlined in this [memo](#). Designed for use within Professional Learning Communities (PLCs), these courses are supported by a [comprehensive facilitation guide](#) provided by IDOE. The guide includes a detailed course overview and practical planning tools to help school teams effectively organize, implement, and engage with the content. Contact IDOE's [Office of Curriculum and Instruction](#) with any questions.

NEW: Sunset of CCR Bridge - Math Ready (2514) and Recommendation to Adopt PRIME Math (2595)

As a reminder, beginning with the 2026-2027 school year, IDOE will sunset course 2514 CCR Bridge - Math Ready. Schools are encouraged to transition to course 2595 Postsecondary Ready Investigative Mathematics Experience (PRIME) Math, which emphasizes conceptual understanding while covering the same core content. To offer PRIME Math during the 2026-2027 school year, the designated teacher is required to attend professional development this summer in central Indiana. Registration is available [here](#). Additional details will be shared during our upcoming webinars outlined below. Contact IDOE's [Office of Curriculum and Instruction](#) with any questions.

NEW: PRIME Math Course Informational Webinars

Schools interested in offering the Postsecondary Ready Investigative Mathematics Experience (PRIME) Math course for seniors are invited to join IDOE and the Southern Regional Education Board (SREB) for a live webinar on Wednesday, December 3, from 3 to 4 p.m. ET. This first of two webinars is geared toward administrators and guidance counselors. A second, educator-focused webinar will take place in January. [Register here](#) through the Indiana Learning Lab. Contact IDOE's [Office of Curriculum and Instruction](#) with any questions.

NEW: Apply for the Mathematics High School Instructional Framework Committee

IDOE invites educators to [apply](#) for the *Mathematics High School Instructional Framework Committee*. This committee will review the instructional frameworks for Algebra I, Algebra II, and Geometry standards for additions and updates. Two in-person committee meetings will be held near Indianapolis from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. ET on January 27-28, 2026. Following the in-person work, additional asynchronous work (up to 10 hours) may occur. Committee members will receive an honorarium (based on their distance from the on-site location) and an additional per-hour stipend for their participation. Contact IDOE's [Office of Student Assessment](#) with any questions.

Office of Educator Talent and the Literacy Center

REMINDER: Continuum of Support

[IC 20-32-8.5-2](#) and [IC 20-32-5.1-20](#) require IDOE to provide guidance for schools on how to support students who are at risk of not being proficient in reading. Guidance related to this is now available as the [Multi-Tiered Systems of Support](#). The framework focuses on using data and instruction to meet students' literacy needs. Further information on how the Indiana Academic Standards fit within this framework, refer to the [IDOE Instructional Frameworks](#) available in the Indiana Learning Lab. Contact IDOE's [Literacy Center](#) with any questions.

REMINDER: Science of Reading Experts Explain Series

Join IDOE and The Reading League Indiana from noon to 1 p.m. ET on Tuesday, November 18 for the next live Experts Explain series with Dr. Janel Bowman. Dr. Bowman will present *Transcription: Handwriting, Spelling, and Keyboarding*. In this session, participants will dive into research and best practices of the important foundational writing skills of handwriting, spelling, and keyboarding. All sessions will be recorded and shared in the Indiana Learning Lab. See registration details [here](#). Contact IDOE's [Literacy Center](#) with any questions.

Office of School Finance

NEW: November Tuition Support Payment

Please read this [memo](#) regarding the Monday, November 17, tuition support payment. Contact IDOE's [Office of School Finance](#) with any questions.

REMINDER: Common School Loans

IDOE's Office of School Finance is now accepting applications for construction and technology common school loans from corporations, charter schools, and school corporation career and technical education schools through Friday, November 21. The application and details can be found in the [Public School Finance Community in Moodle](#) under Common School Funds - Fall. Contact IDOE's [Office of School Finance](#) with any questions.

Office of Student Pathways and Opportunities

REMINDER: Alternative Education New Program Proposal Submissions for the 2026-2027 School Year

The submission window for Alternative Education New Program Proposals for operation in the 2026-2027 school year that do not have a currently approved alternative education program is now open through March 31, 2026. The proposal link can be found [here](#), under Documents and Resources. Currently approved alternative education programs that wish to establish a new alternative education program should consult with the IDOE's Alternative Education Team for guidance. Contact IDOE's [Alternative Education Team](#) with any questions.

Offices of Special Education, English Learning, and Migrant Education

NEW: Virtual English Learner (EL) Leadership Meeting Date Changed to Thursday, December 4

The next virtual EL Leadership Meeting will be held on Thursday, December 4, from 1 to 2:30 p.m. ET. This meeting is intended for Indiana K-12 EL leaders and administrators and will consist of updates and interaction on timely EL topics. Registration is not required. Visit the [EL Professional Development \(PD\) Opportunities Calendar](#) for the meeting link. Contact IDOE's [Office of English Learning and Migrant Education](#) with any questions.

NEW: Monthly New EL Director PLC on Tuesday, November 18

New directors of EL programs are invited to join IDOE in an ongoing Professional Learning Community (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 on Tuesday, November 18, 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.

REMINDER: WIDA Workshop on Nurturing Speaking Growth

IDOE's English Learning team is hosting a virtual two-part workshop, facilitated by WIDA, titled *Nurturing Speaking Growth*. The sessions are designed for Indiana K-12 educators interested in exploring classroom practices that promote oral language development. This is an interactive workshop in which participants will engage in meaning-making activities that provide ways to nurture students' speaking growth. Participants will be asked to speak and share ideas with colleagues during the interactive webinars. Part one will take place on Thursday, December 4, and part two will take place on Thursday, December 11. Both sessions will occur from 3 to 5 p.m. ET. Registration is required via [this Joinform](#) by Friday, November 21, as space is limited. Please contact englishlearners@doe.in.gov with questions.

REMINDER: Special Education Director Outreach Opportunities

The IDOE Office of Special Education is offering multiple support opportunities for Indiana special education directors and administrators throughout the 2025-2026 school year. Join the November sessions to learn more about State Complaints and Child Count with guest speakers from IDOE's licensing department and the PASS Project.

- The [Directors Symposium](#) is held monthly to provide relevant policy and resource updates that support directors in strengthening compliance in their corporation's reporting.
- [Lead and Listen](#) sessions enable the OSE director and specialists to address [submitted follow-up questions](#) regarding the Directors Symposium.
- [New Director Community Chats](#) are also held monthly for special education directors and administrators, new to their positions within the last three years, to ask questions and gain additional information following the Directors Symposium.

Specific information, including dates, times, and registration information, can be found [here](#). Please direct any questions about director outreach opportunities to specialassistance@doe.in.gov.

Office of Title Grants and Support

REMINDER: Upcoming 2025-2026 Comparability Report Deadline

Local educational agencies (LEAs) must complete the 2025-2026 Comparability Report on or before Saturday, November 15. All LEAs received a memo on Monday, October 20, with instructions for completing the 2025-2026 Comparability Report. The process for completing the Comparability Report is the same as in previous years, and will be completed in the Title I App Center. All LEAs are required to submit the 2025-2026 Comparability Report. Contact your Title I grants specialist with any questions.

Indiana Commission for Higher Education

NEW: 21st Century Scholars Automatic Enrollment for the 2030 and 2031 cohorts

The first round of 21st Century Scholars Automatic Enrollment for the 2030 and 2031 cohorts (current 8th and 7th graders, respectively) has been completed for the 2025-2026 academic year. School staff with access to their district's middle schools, housing 7th- and 8th-grade students, can utilize [ScholarTrack](#) to see enrolled students.

[Letters](#) to the Class of 2030 informing parents/guardians of their student's enrollment will be sent via mail in spring 2026. Questions about the 21st Century Scholars program can be sent to your region's Outreach Coordinator. You can find a map of regions and their contact information on our [Contact Us Page](#).

REMINDER: Career and Technical Education (CTE) Career Guide

A new version of the CTE Career Guide is now available [here](#). Information in the guide includes:

- A spread for each Career Cluster (Advanced Manufacturing, Digital Technology, etc.) with available CTE pathways, data on the demand/wages of aligned occupations, and employer spotlights from around the state.
- Information on Indiana's new high school diploma, including pages dedicated to graduation requirements, work-based learning, and credentials of value
- Postsecondary resources provided through the Commission, such as the 21st Century Scholars program and the Pre-Admissions Initiative

This is a great resource for counselors and other school personnel, particularly in working with students and families to showcase the opportunities available through CTE. Each Area CTE Director will be provided a small installment of paper copies for their CTE District later this semester. Schools or other organizations interested in purchasing additional copies can order those now. Information on ordering can be [found here](#), including pricing details. Questions can be directed to CTE@che.in.gov.

Indiana School for the Blind & Visually Impaired

NEW: Indiana School for the Blind & Visually Impaired (ISBVI) Hosts Braille Challenge

Students of all levels of experience are invited to join ISBVI for Braille Institute's Braille Challenge on January 31, 2026. Braille Challenge is the only academic competition of its kind in North America that motivates students to practice and develop their braille literacy skills. This year's theme is "Connect with Braille." Click [here](#) to learn more and to register by Friday, December 12.

NEW: Learners Excelling, Achieving, Dreaming, Succeeding (L.E.A.D.S.) Workshops

The L.E.A.D.S. program wrapped up a successful fall with a Leap into L.E.A.D.S. (grades K-5) session, where students practiced their Sensory Efficiency, Orientation and Mobility, and Assistive Technology skills as they immersed themselves into the role of detectives to solve "The Case of the Missing Cupcake!" Register by Sunday, November 21, for the final L.E.A.D.S. (grades 6-12) session before winter break (Leadership Lunch Pad), which will take place Wednesday, December 3, through Friday, December 5. Click [here](#) to learn more and to register.

News From Our Partners

NEW FROM THE EDUCATIONAL SERVICE CENTERS: AI Summit Series

The East Central, Region 8, and West Central educational service centers invite you to participate in one of their AI Summits happening in December. Join educators, leaders, and students from across Indiana to explore how artificial intelligence is transforming teaching and learning.

AI Summit 1: Taylor University – Monday, December 8, in Upland, IN

AI Summit 2: The Garment Factory – Wednesday, December 10, in Franklin, IN

This professional development opportunity features inspiring keynotes, hands-on sessions with AI experts, and student showcases that highlight innovation in action. [Learn more here](#) and [register today!](#)

NEW FROM ADVANCED PLACEMENT TEACHER INVESTMENT PROGRAM (AP-TIP): Cohort 14 Application Open

The application to Cohort 14 of AP-TIP is now open. Cohort 14 is open to AP and dual credit math, science, and English teachers. Read more about how AP-TIP partners with teachers and view the programs results with the [2026-2027 Program Introduction](#). Learn more and [apply online](#). Applications are due by Friday, December 19. Contact Stephanie.Kucsera with any questions.

NEW FROM WABASH VALLEY EDUCATION CENTER (WVEC): Second Annual Behavior Conference

WVEC's second Annual Behavior Conference will be held on Tuesday, November 18, in West Lafayette: Transforming Student Behavior: Pathways to Positive Change will focus on best practices, practical strategies, and collaboration as participants reimagine what is possible for student behavior. [Click here](#) for additional details and to register. Contact Aimee.Collins with any questions.

NEW FROM KEEP INDIANA LEARNING: ILEARN Checkpoint Workshops

Did you miss the statewide workshops with IDOE earlier this fall? CIESC will host two options in January - one for English/language arts and one for Mathematics. These workshops will help guide your content, instruction, and interventions. [Learn more and register today](#). Contact KeepIndianaLearning with questions.

Weekly Updates

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

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