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Dr. Jenner's Weekly Update

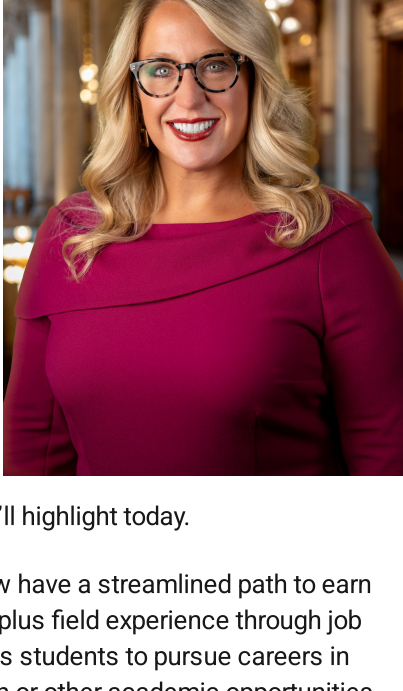
Weekly Newsletter from the Indiana Department of Education

December 12, 2025

A Message from Dr. Katie Jenner

One of the many things I'm proud of in Indiana is that we have honest conversations about challenge areas... leverage the data...and do the best we can to seize the moment, if it means benefiting children. We know that having a quality educator in the classroom really matters for a child's learning--and we also know that one of our largest needs statewide is for STEM teachers. The educator supply/demand marketplace is one place to look for that active data.

Recruiting additional STEM teachers has been a key area of focus for the state of Indiana. In fact, we just recently opened the latest round of applications for [I-STEM](#), which supports individuals with a bachelor's degree who want to complete a transition to a teaching program focused on STEM, as well as educators wanting to add a STEM addition to their existing educator license. And recently, our partners at Purdue University brought a new solution to the table to strengthen Indiana's STEM teacher pipeline, which I'll highlight today.



To help solve this challenge, STEM majors at Purdue will now have a streamlined path to earn their educator license by completing nine additional credits, plus field experience through job shadowing current teachers. This innovative approach allows students to pursue careers in education without delaying graduation or sacrificing research or other academic opportunities.

With more than **32,000 Purdue undergraduates** currently enrolled in STEM majors, this certificate opens the door for thousands of talented students to bring their expertise into Indiana classrooms...where they can help shape the future of our state, inspire the next generation of STEM leaders, and prepare our future thinkers, creators, and entrepreneurs for success in a STEM-driven world.

This example from Purdue University is one of many examples of partners from across our state who are being proactive in identifying challenges and leaning in to develop solutions that support Indiana and most importantly, our students.

Thank you to Purdue University for making this possible, and as always, thank you to each of you for all that you do to support our Indiana students!

Office of Assessment

REMINDER: 2025-2026 Cambridge International Math and Science Grant Application Due January 16, 2026

The [2025-2026 Cambridge International Math and Science Grant](#) is designed to support any school or corporation in increasing student enrollment and improving student scores in math and science Cambridge International courses. The grant implementation cycle begins July 1, 2025, and ends June 30, 2026. Applicable expenses made prior to completing the grant application can be reimbursed. Completed [grant applications](#) are due January 16, 2026. Contact the Indiana Department of Education's (IDOE's) [Office of Student Assessment](#) with any questions.

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

NEW: Indiana PRIME Math Informational Webinar Recording

On Wednesday, December 3, IDOE and the Southern Regional Education Board hosted a live webinar for schools interested in offering the Postsecondary Ready Investigative Mathematics Experience (PRIME) Math course for seniors. The webinar recording can be found [here](#). This first of two webinars was geared towards administrators and guidance counselors. A second, educator-focused webinar will take place on January 22, 2026, from 3 to 3:30 p.m. ET. Registration information for this webinar will be shared in Dr. Jenner's Weekly Update on January 9, 2026. Contact IDOE's [Office of Curriculum and Instruction](#) with questions.

NEW: On-Demand Professional Development

Throughout the school year, IDOE hosts sessions in the Indiana Learning Lab on a variety of topics. Recent workshops are all available on demand:

- [Assistive Technology \(AT\) in the IEP](#)
- [Assistive Technology: Myths and Facts](#)
- [Supporting Students with Disabilities Experiencing Homelessness](#)
- [Greenhouses and Other Season Extenders](#)

Attend [future live sessions](#) and view [other on-demand content](#) in the Learning Lab. Contact IDOE's [Digital Learning Team](#) with any questions.

Office of Educator Talent and the Literacy Center

NEW: The Literacy Leadership Series - Impactful Guidance for K-8 School and District Leadership

Kicking off on January 6, 2026, this high-impact series is specially designed for district and school leaders, school board members, instructional coaches, and literacy specialists. This live, on-demand virtual series in the Indiana Learning Lab will feature national reading science and systems design experts, as well as showcase critical research, guidance, and resources to support practice toward evidence-based literacy instruction and building comprehensive literacy support systems for improving student outcomes. Access the series flyer [here](#) for more information regarding topics and dates. Contact IDOE's [Literacy Center](#) with any questions.

REMINDER: Science of Reading Experts Explain Series

Join IDOE and The Reading League Indiana on Tuesday, December 16, from noon to 1 p.m. ET for the next live Experts Explain series with Dr. Shawn Datchuk. Dr. Datchuk will present *Sentence Writing Fluency*. In this session, participants will learn evidence-based techniques to improve sentence writing to automaticity, including capitalization, punctuation, and syntax. All sessions will be recorded and shared in the Indiana Learning Lab. See registration details [here](#). Contact IDOE's [Literacy Center](#) with any questions.

REMINDER: Keys to Literacy No Cost Professional Development for Early Literacy Endorsement

IDOE's Early Literacy Endorsement 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, in Keys to Literacy. Registration is available [here](#) for those who are eligible, but space is limited. Contact IDOE's [Literacy Center](#) with any questions.

REMINDER: Early Literacy Professional Development Approval

Educators who have completed 80-hours of professional development will complete [this form](#) to verify details of their training and upload their completion certificates. Once the professional development has been approved, IDOE will issue a confirmation letter that will be used by the educator to complete the early literacy endorsement application in LVIS. An FAQ with additional information regarding the early literacy endorsement can be found [here](#), and we will continue to add additional questions and answers as they arise. Contact IDOE's [Literacy Center](#) with any questions.

Office of Information Technology

NEW: Special Education Data Certification Begins Monday, December 15

The final data clean-up for the December Special Education Student count is upon us. Thanks to all who have worked collaboratively with us to achieve a complete count using the new IEP platform, which shares special education program records directly with IDOE. We have surpassed the certified count of students we had last year and continue to work with schools to resolve any lingering issues. We plan to open up the certification on Monday, December 15, and it will remain open through Friday, December 19. During this time, chief financial officers and superintendents will need to certify their special education data with digital signatures. If there are questions about data certification, please direct them to [help.doe.in.gov](#).

Office of School Finance

NEW: Form 9 Office Hours

The IDOE Office of School Finance will hold a Form 9 Office Hours to discuss any questions you may have about the July to December 2025 Form 9 financial data submissions due by January 31, 2026. Please mark your calendars for 10 a.m. ET on January 13, 2026. Click [here](#) to join the meeting.

NEW: December Tuition Support Payment

Please read [this memo](#) regarding the Monday, December 15, tuition support payment. Contact IDOE's [Office of School Finance](#) with any questions.

NEW: 2026 Summer School Reminders

Please read [this memo](#) regarding allowable courses for the 2026 summer school session. Contact IDOE's [Summer School Team](#) with any questions.

Office of Special Education, English Learning, and Migrant Education

NEW: Monthly New English Learner (EL) Director PLC on Tuesday, December 16

New directors of English learner 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 Tuesday, December 16, 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: 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 December sessions to learn more about Seclusion and Restraint, Good Cause Exemption, and the APH Annual Census with guest speaker Martha LaBounty from the Indiana Educational Resource Center.

- 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 [spedassistance@doe.in.gov](#).

REMINDER: Last Call - Fiscal Year (FY) 24 IDEA Part B 611 AND 619 Reimbursements

The deadline to submit the final reimbursement requests and backup documentation for the FY 24 IDEA Part B 611 and 619 grants is Monday, December 15. Reimbursement requests should be submitted by email to [specialiedpartb@doe.in.gov](#). Requests submitted after Monday, December 15, will not be accepted. Contact the IDOE [Office of Special Education](#) with additional questions.

Office of Title Grants and Support

REMINDER: Technical Assistance Survey 2026

IDOE's Title Grants and Support team is dedicated to providing high-quality technical assistance to help schools across Indiana maximize support for students. As we approach the new year, we want to hear directly from schools about the various technical assistance opportunities and topics that would be most impactful. Please provide your feedback by completing this [survey](#) by Monday, December 15.

Indiana Commission for Higher Education

NEW: 2026-2027 Career and Technical Education (CTE) Course Funding Categorizations

The 2026-2027 CTE Course Funding Memo was approved earlier this week at the December State Board of Education meeting and can be found [here](#). This annual memo provides funding categorizations for secondary CTE courses. The memo is a collaboration between the Indiana Department of Workforce Development (DWD) and the CTE team at the Commission for Higher Education. Changes from the prior year are summarized [here](#). Questions can be shared with the Commission's CTE team at [CTE@che.in.gov](#).

News From Our Partners

NEW FROM THE DISTRESSED UNIT APPEAL BOARD: Financial Indicators Dashboard Updated

The Distressed Unit Appeal Board (DUAB) has updated its [School Corporation Financial Indicators Dashboard](#) to include 2024 financial data. Indiana Code (IC) 5-13-7-8 requires an annual report to the corporation's board of finance assessing the financial condition of the corporation. The report must use DUAB's indicators. Under IC 5-13-7-6, local boards of finance must meet annually after the first Monday and on or before the last day of January. Questions about the dashboard and the indicator data can be directed to Dan Schmidt, DUAB Executive Director, at [dschmidt@duab.in.gov](#).

NEW FROM IN*SOURCE: Become a Family Engagement Certified School

Bring statewide recognition to your school for strong relationships between staff and families by [seeking certification](#). Access helpful results from a free annual family and staff survey and join a network of schools sharing ideas and resources. [Click here](#) to see the Levels of Recognition and [click on this link](#) to apply! Questions? Contact [Dr. Dawn McGrath](#).

NEW FROM THE AMERICAN COUNCIL OF ENGINEERING COMPANIES (ACEC) OF INDIANA: Engineers Week | February 22-28, 2026

National Engineers Week celebrates and promotes the field of engineering by raising awareness about the contributions of engineers to civil society and inspiring the next generation of engineers. [Volunteers from the American Council of Engineering Companies of Indiana](#) will visit local schools during National Engineers Week to share information with students and answer questions about their career path as a civil engineer. Teachers interested in scheduling a free classroom visit are encouraged to complete this [JoinForm](#) by Friday, December 19. Contact [Liz Walker](#) with any questions.

NEW FROM THE NATIONAL COUNCIL OF TEACHERS OF MATHEMATICS (NCTM): Registration Open for the 2026 NCTM Spring Conference

The National Council of Teachers of Mathematics (NCTM) will host its 2026 Spring Conference in Indianapolis from February 11-13, 2026. This event offers an opportunity for educators to engage with thought leaders in mathematics education, explore innovative practices, and connect with peers from across the country. Attendees can look forward to a variety of sessions, keynote presentations, and an exhibit hall showcasing the latest tools and resources. Visit [nctm.org/indy2026](#) to learn more and register. Those who register by Friday, December 19, using the promo code ICTM26, will also receive a complimentary one-year membership with the Indiana Council of Teachers of Mathematics. Contact [NCTM](#) with any questions.

REMINDER FROM KEEP INDIANA LEARNING: ILEARN Checkpoint 3 Workshops

Did you miss the statewide workshops with IDOE earlier this fall? CIESC will host two options in January - one for ELA and one for Math. These workshops will help guide your content, instruction, and interventions. [Learn more and register today](#). Contact [Keep Indiana Learning](#) with questions.



Weekly Updates

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

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

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