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INDIANA
DEPARTMENT of
EDUCATION

Dr. Jenner's Weekly Update

Weekly Newsletter from the Indiana Department of Education

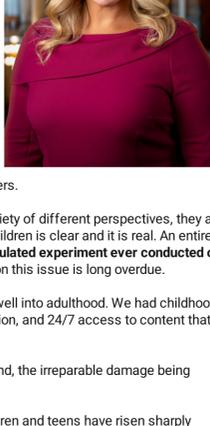
February 13, 2026

A Message from Dr. Katie Jenner

Most commonly in these weekly newsletters, I share about the good work happening around our state...from helping more students learn to read...increasing access to high-quality STEM...lighting the fire of purpose in our students for what's next...to elevating and celebrating our Indiana students and educators. Each of these remains top of mind—but increasingly, as I hear your stories, study the data, and see the impact firsthand as a mom, the negative impact that social media is having on our children is a topic that we must acknowledge and find solutions for as a state.

We have all seen the dangers of social media. Maybe you've witnessed a child hurt by online bullying or overwhelmed by constant comparison. These aren't rare stories; as you know, they're happening every day.

Earlier this week, parents, educators, caring adults, and even a courageous student testified at the Indiana Statehouse to advocate for stronger social media protections for Indiana students. I want to personally thank everyone who spoke in support of the social media provisions in Senate Bill 199. It truly takes an army of people to turn good ideas into great public policy, so a **huge thank you** to all who continue to work tirelessly to reduce the harm of social media on our youngest Hoosiers.



While those who testified in the House Education Committee shared a variety of different perspectives, they all led to the same conclusion: the negative impact of social media on our children is clear and it is real. An entire generation of Hoosier children are bearing the weight of the **largest unregulated experiment ever conducted on young minds**, and this essential discussion our state is having right now on this issue is long overdue.

For most of you reading this, social media arrived when we were already well into adulthood. We had childhoods free from constant comparison, cyberbullying, algorithm-driven manipulation, and 24/7 access to content that is designed to keep us constantly engaged and constantly scrolling.

Our children, growing up today, do not have the same luxury that we did. And, the irreparable damage being inflicted on our children daily via social media should frighten all of us.

Rates of anxiety, depression, self-harm, and suicidal ideation among children and teens have risen sharply during the social media era. Middle schools report students afraid to come to school after viral harassment. Families struggle with their children experiencing loss of sleep, eating disorders, constant online pressure, and exposure to inappropriate and dangerous content while their young minds are still developing.

As teenagers, the regions of the brain responsible for self-regulation, impulse control, and emotional resilience are still under construction. Meanwhile, social media platforms are intentionally engineered to be addictive — using reward loops, notifications, and algorithms to capture a young child's attention at all costs. That's not a fair fight, and it's not one our children can — or should — be expected to navigate alone.

As a society, we already agree that young kids shouldn't drive cars, buy tobacco, or gamble. This is not intended to punish them—it's because we understand developmental limits and adult responsibility. Setting boundaries for social media is no different. It's about giving kids time to grow, learn face-to-face communication, and discover who they are before exposing them to platforms designed to exploit their vulnerabilities.

Other states are already moving. Thoughtful, bipartisan legislation is emerging across the country to require age verification, limit data collection, restrict addictive design features, and hold companies accountable when they knowingly endanger minors.

Indiana can — and should — lead with strong protections that put children first, including setting a clear boundary that requires *parental consent to be on social media and prohibits these addictive, harmful design features* for children 15 years old and under. Now is the time to take bold action, to stand up for Hoosier children, and to end this social media experiment on our young kids.

As always, thank you for all that you do for our students, and thank you to so many of you who elevated this topic over the past many months. I appreciate your constant support and care for Indiana's children.

Office of Accountability

NEW: Now Accepting 2025-2026 Petition to Seek Performance-Based State Accreditation

The submission window for non-public schools to submit a [petition for performance-based state accreditation](#) is now open through Tuesday, March 31. Petitions must be completed and submitted to the Indiana Department of Education (IDOE) prior to the school year for which accreditation would begin. Schools are encouraged to submit a [Notice of Intent](#) form to alert IDOE of their intent to submit a petition. To submit the notice and petition, or for questions, contact IDOE's [Office of Accountability](#).

Office of Assessment

NEW: 2025-2026 Cambridge International Math and Science Grant Recipients Announced

IDOE is pleased to announce the recipients of the 2025-2026 Cambridge International Math and Science Grant. This competitive grant opportunity offers schools funds for the purpose of supporting programs dedicated to increasing student enrollment and improving student scores in math and science Cambridge International courses. Review this [memo](#) for a list of the winners. Contact IDOE's [Office of Student Assessment](#) with any questions.

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

NEW: Collaborative Transitions to Kindergarten - Creating Community Cohorts Collection

The [Collaborative Transitions to Kindergarten: Creating Community Cohorts](#) collection in the Indiana Learning Lab provides schools and early learning programs with practical tools to build cross-sector collaboration and create a year-long, cohesive plan that aligns with the school year and strengthens teamwork across the process. This collection explains the process for both developing and implementing, based on a 2025 pilot and the Kindergarten Transition Model, and includes all necessary accompanying resources and recommended professional development for schools and early learning programs to engage in together. Contact IDOE's [Office of Student Assessment](#) with any questions.

NEW: High-Quality Curricular Materials Advisory List Now Available for NLPs Course 4565 Computing Foundations for a Digital Age

IDOE published a list identifying additional high-quality curricular material options in support of schools' implementation of Indiana's Next Level Program of Studies (NLPs) course 4565 Computing Foundations for a Digital Age. An overview of the review process and requirements per the K-12 STEM evaluation rubric are outlined in this [memo](#). Cost sheets for approved vendor curricular materials are available on IDOE's [High-Quality Curricular Materials Advisory Lists webpage](#). The advisory lists for K-8 Reading will be published soon. Send any questions to HOCCM@doe.in.gov.

NEW: Artificial Intelligence (AI) Educator Survey Final Report Now Available

The [Artificial Intelligence \(AI\) Educator Survey Final Report](#) is now available for the 2024-2025 Digital Learning Grant. A priority of this grant was to support local projects that utilized AI-powered platforms to support student tutoring and teacher administrative task support. The final report provides background information on the grant and awardees, teacher feedback data from 2,096 survey responses, and AI platform data. Contact IDOE's [Digital Learning Team](#) with any questions.

REMINDER: Indiana's Tiered System of Supports for K-8 Mathematics Q&A Slides, Recording, and Parking Lot Document are Now Available

Educators and administrators unable to attend the Indiana Tiered System of Supports for K-8 Mathematics Q&A Webinar on December 8, 2025, may now access the [presentation](#), [recording](#), and [parking lot questions and answers](#). The three web-based binder (K-2, 3-5, 6-8) [Indiana Tiered System of Supports Toolkit for Mathematics Courses](#) may be accessed through the [Indiana Learning Lab](#). Contact IDOE's [Office of Curriculum and Instruction](#) with any questions.

REMINDER: Auto-Enrollment Office Hours Recording

On Thursday, January 29, IDOE hosted a live office hours for counselors and administrators serving students in grades six through eight. The webinar recording can be found [here](#). The session included a brief overview of the latest auto-enrollment guidance followed by Q&A. Questions answered during the session can be viewed [here](#) or in the parking lot document available in the office hours [slides](#). Contact IDOE's [Office of Curriculum and Instruction](#) with any questions.

Office of Educator Talent and Literacy Center

NEW: Disciplinary Literacy Guidance

[Disciplinary Literacy Guidance](#) is now available to support educators and schools. Further information can be found in the [Disciplinary Literacy Collection](#) of the [Adolescent Literacy Hub](#) in the Indiana Learning Lab. Contact the [Literacy Center](#) with any questions.

NEW: The Literacy Leadership Series Workshop, "K-8 Reading Plans and Measurable Achievement Goals"

Join IDOE for the next Literacy Leadership Series workshop, "K-8 Reading Plans and Measurable Achievement Goals," from 2:30 p.m. ET on Tuesday, February 17. Continuing through April, the IDOE Literacy Leadership Series is a high-impact series specially designed for district and school leaders, school board members, instructional coaches, and literacy specialists. The live, on-demand virtual series in the Indiana Learning Lab will feature national reading science and systems design experts and 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](#) for more information regarding topics and dates. Contact the [Literacy Center](#) with any questions.

NEW: Science of Reading Experts Explain Series

Join IDOE and The Reading League Indiana from noon to 1 p.m. ET on Tuesday, February 17, for the next live Experts Explain series with Dr. Leslie Laud. Dr. Laud will present "Bring the Science of Writing to Your Classroom in Fun & Engaging Ways through ThinkSRSD." In this session, participants will discover easy-to-implement, enjoyable, and evidence-based ways to re-invigorate the teaching of writing. Learn pre-writing strategies that help students make deeper meanings of texts. Support writers and teach scaffolds and structures for navigating the full writing process, for building knowledge about the world, and for elevating student voice. Help students become more strategic, empowered, independent, and goal-oriented writers and thinkers. All sessions will be recorded and shared in the Indiana Learning Lab. See registration details [here](#). Contact the [Literacy Center](#) with any questions.

REMINDER: Monthly Data Interpretation Office Hours Acadience Reading Preferred Universal Screener

Acadience Learning, Inc. will host monthly office hours this school year to support school leaders and educators as they interpret the data from the state's preferred screener. Office hours will be at 10:30 a.m. ET on Wednesday, February 25. Click [here](#) to join. Learn more information by visiting the Indiana Acadience webpage [here](#). Contact the [Literacy Center](#) with any questions.

Office of School Finance

NEW: Membership Conflict Petition Process

The window to submit a membership conflict petition is now open. This [memo](#) details the process. Friday, March 13, is the deadline for a school corporation or charter school to file a petition. Contact IDOE's [Office of School Finance](#) with any questions.

NEW: February Tuition Support Payment

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

NEW: Form 9 Memo for January to June 2026

Please read the following [memo](#) regarding updates for the January to June 2026 Form 9 financial data submission and the chart of accounts. If you have questions, please email IDOE's [Office of School Finance](#).

REMINDER: Fiscal Year (FY) 2027 Indirect Cost Rates Application Information

The window to apply for Indirect Cost Rates is open until Tuesday, March 31. Restricted and unrestricted indirect costs rates are calculated and certified only to entities that provide Form 9 financial information. New Form 9-reporting schools are eligible to apply but will be subject to the median rate. Please see this [memo](#) for more information. Questions can be sent to icr@doe.in.gov.

Office of Student Pathways and Opportunities

NEW: Accredited Diploma Materials for the 2025-2026 School Year

Each year, accrediting Indiana high schools must report the total number of students expected to graduate with each diploma type to IDOE to receive diploma seals. Counts must be submitted [here](#) by Friday, March 13. Review this [memo](#) for more information and full instructions. Contact IDOE's [Office of Student Pathways and Opportunities](#) with additional questions.

Office of School Support and Transformation

REMINDER: Annual 1003 Flexibility Waivers

IDOE's Office of School Support and Transformation is [accepting applications](#) for 1003 Flexibility Waivers to support improved student outcomes, operational efficiency, and innovative learning. Details are available in the [memo](#) and [Flexibility Guide for Indiana's K-12 Schools](#). Applications are open on a rolling basis through Friday, April 24, and will be considered at SBOE meetings through July. Contact [Georgia Watson](#) with any questions.

Office of Student, School, and Family Engagement

NEW: Public Comment Open on Indiana's Employability Skills Standards

Indiana's Employability Skills Standards are designed to help students build the most in-demand skills for current and future careers. IDOE is currently seeking public feedback on updates to the Employability Skills Standards for the 2026-2027 school year. The updated standards are arranged within the domains and skills of Communication, Collaboration, and Work Ethic, which aligns with the Indiana Graduates Prepared to Succeed characteristics, as well as the new Indiana diploma and readiness seals. Click [here](#) to review the updated standards and provide feedback by 11:45 p.m. ET on Friday, March 13. IDOE will use this input to refine standards and present final recommendations to the Indiana State Board of Education later this year.

Office of Special Education, English Learning, and Migrant Education

REMINDER: Non-Public School Consultation Documentation - Part B proportionate share requirement must email

All public local educational agencies (LEAs) that have a fiscal year (FY) 2026 Part B proportionate share requirement must email documentation demonstrating ongoing consultation for equitable services to IDOE's [ombudsman](#) by Monday, February 16.

- Written affirmation of timely, meaningful, and ongoing 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 FY26 Part B grant funds for provision of equitable services (specialized instruction and related services) to its parentally placed students with disabilities attending non-public schools, including home schools, located within their district boundaries.
- Examples of equitable documentation include meeting minutes or agendas, communication logs, etc. LEAs may also complete the [IDEA Equitable Services Ongoing Consultation Affirmation form](#) with appropriate signatures to meet this requirement.
- All email submissions must begin with the four-digit corporation number in the subject line (e.g., XXXX Ongoing Consultation Submission).

Contact IDOE's [ombudsman](#) with any questions.

Office of Title Grants and Support

NEW: Update on Indiana's Federal Waiver Request

In October 2025, IDOE requested a federal waiver for flexibility under the federal Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA). This kicked off a collaborative process between IDOE and the U.S. Department of Education (USED) to reduce red tape, strengthen accountability, increase support for vulnerable students, and allow Indiana educators to continue building on our strong momentum.

We have had excellent, productive conversations with USED and look forward to continuing our progress ahead. In order to work through some final details, we asked USED for a brief and temporary pause in their review. Our goal is still to share new flexibilities ahead of the 2026-2027 school year.

Office of Educational Options and Quality

NEW: Application Windows Opening Sunday, March 1, for Career Scholarship Accounts and Education Scholarship Accounts

This is the first year that the Career Scholarship Account (CSA) and Education Scholarship Account (ESA) programs will be administered by IDOE. The application window for both programs will open soon on Sunday, March 1. Eligible expenses and other processes will remain the same for the 2026-2027 school year. Stay tuned for additional information, including our new webpages, updated handbooks, and frequently asked questions. We look forward to proactively engaging families, schools, and other stakeholders to continuously improve these important programs!

News From Our Partners

NEW FROM THE INDIANA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT: 2026 Governor's Awards for Environmental Excellence

The Governor's Awards for Environmental Excellence (GAEE) recognize Indiana citizens, government agencies, businesses, organizations, and educational institutions for outstanding achievements that positively impact Indiana's environment. GAEE are reserved for the most innovative, transferable, and effective programs or projects with measurable environmental, economic, and social benefits. Award categories include: Energy Efficiency/Renewable Resources, Environmental Education and Outreach, Pollution Prevention, Recycling/Reuse, and more. The deadline for nominations is Friday, March 6, at 11:59 p.m. ET. Click [here](#) to learn more about the awarding process, nomination process, as well as previous recipients.

NEW FROM THE INDIANA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES: 2026 Natural Resources Teacher Institute

Indiana educators are encouraged to apply for the [2026 Natural Resources Teacher Institute](#), which will be held Monday, June 15, through Friday, June 19, at the Forestry Training Center at Morgan-Monroe State Forest. This free, week-long immersive professional development program will provide educators with the knowledge, skills, and tools to effectively teach their students about forest ecology, research, and management in Indiana. Participants will earn 30+ Professional Growth Points, as well as receive curricular materials, a forestry tool kit, Indiana-specific field guides, and a stipend for developing and implementing a lesson plan. Contact [Lexi Eiler](#) with questions.

NEW FROM BALL STATE UNIVERSITY'S CENTER FOR ECONOMIC AND CIVIC LEARNING: CREATE250 - Civic Learning Opportunities for Indiana Educators

As Indiana prepares for America's 250th anniversary, Ball State University's Center for Economic and Civic Learning (CECL) invites teachers across Indiana schools to apply for CREATE250, a statewide civic education initiative. Two opportunities are now open:

- **CREATE250 Mentor Teachers:** Experienced educators serve as instructional leaders, mentor colleagues, and support inquiry-based civic learning. Participants receive a \$2,000 stipend, access to advanced professional learning, and eligibility for an expenses-paid civic immersion experience in Washington, D.C., for selected participants. Apply [here](#).
- **CREATE250 Statewide Community of Practice:** Teachers collaborate with peers across Indiana, participate in sustained professional learning, attend a Summer Civic Learning Academy, and implement a CREATE250-aligned civic project with students. Participants receive a \$1,000 stipend and mentoring support. Apply [here](#).

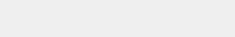
Both opportunities are designed to be feasible alongside full-time teaching and support high-quality civic learning as part of America250. For additional information, contact CECL Director [Dr. David Roof](#).

NEW FROM AP-TIP: Registration for Dual Credit Workshops at AP-TIP's Spring Assessment Forum Now Open

AP TIP's Spring Assessment Forum will take place at the Drury Plaza Hotel Indianapolis Carmel on Wednesday, April 8, through Friday, April 10, hosting English, Science/CSP, and Math/CSA teachers. Dual credit teachers will work with representatives from Ivy Tech, Indiana University, and others to collaborate on issues related to college-level course expectations, assessment design, and the use of assessment data to drive instruction. Click [here](#) to learn more about the Spring Assessment Forum, review [steps by subject](#), and register online by Friday, March 20. Registration fees will be waived for dual credit participants. Contact [Stephanie Kucsera](#) with any questions.

NEW FROM INDIANA FARM BUREAU: National Agriculture in the Classroom Conference Scholarship for Teachers and Volunteers

Indiana Farm Bureau sponsors teachers and/or volunteers to attend the National Agriculture in the Classroom Conference held annually in June. The scholarship includes the cost of a single, early-bird registration for the conference, up to four nights lodging at the conference hotel, and a travel allowance. Any licensed pre-K through 12th-grade educator currently teaching in a public or private school or college student currently majoring in education is eligible to apply. The application deadline is Sunday, March 1, at 11:59 p.m. ET. Click [here](#) to learn more.



Weekly Updates

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