

Weekly Newsletter from the Indiana Department of Education

February 14, 2025

A Message from Dr. Katie Jenner

freezing rain, to snow this week...or in some cases, a mixture of the three. Thank you for ensuring learning continues to the best of your ability and for keeping our students and team members safe!

Over the past two weeks in the weekly update, we have focused on the nation's recent NAEP scores. In Indiana specifically, we saw significant growth in reading, jumping to 6th in the nation! For several years now, we have focused heavily on helping more students learn to read, and on multiple occasions, as I've travelled across the state, I've had someone raise their hand and say, "what about math?" This is a particularly important and timely question in light of the recent NAEP data.

After a few days with more spring-like temperatures Mother Nature reminded many of us this week that it is still winter in Indiana. Depending on where you're located, we had everything from rain, to

behind a national score increase, and 8th grade scores continued a downward trend in the state and nationwide.

To recap the data...while Indiana saw promising increases in 4th and 8th grade reading, our 4th grade math data showed Indiana students lagging Now, our shared question is: how might we leverage some of the good work already happening locally in the math space, as well as what we've learned from our reading progress, to help more students in math? This is a key priority for Indiana this legislative session, which includes a focus on: Utilizing a universal math screener to determine students at risk of not meeting grade level proficiency (Note: Nearly 90% of K-2 students currently participate in an approved screener.); Providing targeted, early interventions for K-8 students who have not achieved grade level proficiency; Ensuring students who demonstrate mastery in math are promoted to advanced coursework when appropriate; and Aligning teacher prep programs to ensure future teachers have the tools needed to help more students

master foundational math. As we approach the half-way point of the legislative session, I encourage you to continue to reach out and share ideas and solutions on how we can keep improving for students. Similar to our approach with literacy and

rethinking high school, we must take time to understand successes being driven locally, as well as positive outcomes occurring in other states. Thank you to everyone who has already reached out, and as always, thank you for all that you do for our students!

- Office of Assessment
- REMINDER: Spring SAT & IREAD Question and Answer (Q&A) Sessions IDOE will hold two February Q&A sessions to address any questions regarding the upcoming SAT School Day administration,
- Additional resources can be found on IDOE's High School Assessment webpage. IDOE will also hold two Q&A sessions this month in preparation for the upcoming IREAD test administration. Join the sessions below: • Friday, February 21, from 8 to 9 a.m. ET Wednesday, February 26, from 3 to 4 p.m. ET

As a reminder, the spring IREAD testing window is open Monday, March 3, through Friday, March 14. Contact IDOE's Office of Student Assessment with any questions. **REMINDER: 2024-2025 Assessment Data Forensics Analysis** IDOE has outlined the process for assessment data forensics review for spring 2025. This memo provides additional

IDOE is seeking English/language arts (ELA) and math educators and instructional coaches who serve students in grades 3-8

committee due to test security purposes.

appropriate.

questions.

which is open Monday, March 3, through Friday, March 14.

Tuesday, February 18, from 3 to 4 p.m. ET • Tuesday, February 25, from 8 to 9 a.m. ET

testing. Contact IDOE's Office of Student Assessment with any questions. REMINDER: ILEARN Performance Level Descriptor (PLD) Review Committee Application Due Today

to participate in the ILEARN PLD Review Committee. The PLD committee will review the current PLDs for all ILEARN ELA and mathematics assessments against research-based criteria and provide recommendations for future improvements, as

 The committee will meet via Microsoft Teams from Tuesday, March 18, through Thursday, March 20, from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. ET, and training will be included during the workshop Participants will receive an honorarium of \$480 for their full participation in the committee. Participants must be located in a secure environment where others cannot view their screen for the entirety of the

REMINDER: College Board School Test Coordinator (STC) Part Two Webinar

about the Teacher of the Year here, and contact IDOE's program team with additional questions.

deadlines, and available resources. Register for the session here. Contact College Board with any questions.

Office of Educator Talent & Literacy Center

of being a host school here. Those unable to attend the informational webinar can also view the recording. Districts can express interest by completing the application, and priority will be given to applications completed by Monday, March 31.

IDOE invites schools and districts to request the Indiana Teacher of the Year to be a guest speaker at your next event. Take advantage of the opportunity to help celebrate teaching and uplift the profession. Requests may be submitted here. Learn more

Details or the 2025-2026 school year Spanish Visiting Teacher Program can be found here; learn more about the responsibilities

College Board's STC Part Two Webinar for STCs and other test staff will be held on Wednesday, February 12, from 10 to 11:30 a.m. ET. Participants will learn about SAT School Day preparation, test administration policies and procedures, important

The application deadline is today, Friday, February 14. Contact IDOE's Office of Student Assessment 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

Throughout the year, numerous opportunities arise nationwide to acknowledge the incredible work of Indiana educators. IDOE's

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 from one district that tripled their applicant volume using these tools. Contact IDOE's Office of Educator Talent with any

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

REMINDER: Additional Opportunities to Recognize Indiana Educators

REMINDER: Early Literacy Endorsement Professional Development (PD) and Praxis Voucher Request Educators who hold an Indiana professional educator license can register here for the flexible Keys to Literacy options. 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 <u>Literacy Center</u> with questions.

REMINDER: E-Rate Match for Fiber Construction Now Available IDOE is once again participating in the E-Rate Match Program for special fiber construction projects. Available to any Indiana public school for fiscal year (FY) 2025 (July 1, 2025, to June 30, 2026), the program increases the discount rate for special construction charges for high-speed broadband that meets the Federal Communications Commission's (FCC's) long-term connectivity targets up to an additional 10% to match the state funding on a one-to-one dollar basis. Full application details are available here. Contact IDOE's Director of Educational Technology, Brad Hagg, with any questions.

Office of School & Community Nutrition REMINDER: Nominations for School Food Service Employee of the Year Due Thursday, February 27 Help IDOE recognize school food service employees who contribute significantly to the health and learning capabilities of students by nominating them for IDOE's 2025 School Food Service Employee of the Year Award. This award was created to recognize the outstanding achievements of school food service employees who excel in the areas of customer service, attitude, professionalism, and teamwork. All school food service personnel except directors are eligible to be nominated. Submit your nomination by Thursday, February 27. Contact Suzette Hartmann with any questions.

Review this memo regarding the Friday, February 14, tuition support payment. Contact IDOE's Office of School Finance with any

Review this memo regarding the membership conflict petition process. Friday, March 14, is the deadline for a school corporation

The window to submit the Estimated Cost Report for Summer School 2025 opens Monday, February 17. Review this memo for information regarding eligible courses, important dates, and financial provisions. Contact Teresa Hemmerle or Alex Waite with

Indiana Code (IC) 20-26-11-32 requires public school corporations that accept out-of-district students to report the date that transfer requests must be received by the school corporation to IDOE using this form by Friday, April 11. More information can

or charter school to file a petition. Contact IDOE's Office of School Finance with any questions.

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 officials can read more about the opportunity in the memo and Flexibility Guide for Indiana's K-12 Schools. Applications are now open and will be accepted on a rolling basis through Friday, April 25. Contact Georgia Watson with any questions.

Office of Student Pathways and Opportunities

REMINDER: Annual 1003 Flexibility Waivers

NEW: Diploma Seals Ordering Information

o Graduation Pathways Policy Guidance

Contact IDOE's Office of Student Pathways and Opportunities with any questions.

NEW: Certificate of Multilingual Proficiency (CoMP) Informational Meeting

NEW: Save the Date for Dual Language In-Person Networking Day

REMINDER: Register for Special Education Directors Symposium

IDOE's Office of English Learning and Migrant Education.

Office of Special Education with any questions.

Kindergarten Readiness

the following sessions in the Indiana Learning Lab:

IDOE's Office of Digital Learning with any questions.

REMINDER: Blended Learning Courses

Contact IDOE's Office of Digital Learning with any questions.

REMINDER: Pre-Service Educator Workshops

Office of Title Grants and Support

NEW: Registration Now Available for TitleCon2025

Title Grants and Support with any questions.

questions.

Proposals (RFP)

Protocol (SIOP)

Learning Disability

Contact WestEd with additional questions.

REMINDER: Quarterly Meeting Schedule

certification. Contact Keep Indiana Learning with questions.

REMINDER: February Graduation Pathways Office Hours

and services are linked below.

REMINDER: Transfer Request Deadline Closes Friday, April 11

information and full instructions. Contact IDOE's Office of Student Pathways and Opportunities with additional questions. **REMINDER: January Graduation Pathways Office Hours**

Slides from the January webinar are available here. Additional resources that will be helpful as you engage in student support

Each year, accredited 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 14. Review this memo for more

Graduation Pathways office hours will continue on Thursday, February 27, covering new locally created pathways (LCPs) and their application process. More information and links to join can be found here. Contact IDOE's Office of Student Pathways and Opportunities with any questions. Office of Special Education, English Learning, and Migrant **Education**

• IKRA: Monday, February 24, from 10 to 11 a.m. ET IKRA: Tuesday, February 25, from 11 a.m. to noon ET ISPROUT: Tuesday, February 25, from 12:30 to 1:30 p.m. ET • ISPROUT: Wednesday, February 26, from noon to 1 p.m. ET

NEW: Artificial Intelligence (AI) Guidance for Parents and Families

Contact IDOE's Office of Kindergarten Readiness with any questions.

IDOE and Indiana University Bloomington 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 can implement computer science concepts. Our next session, Introduction to AI in Education: Understanding How AI Works and Ethics is Monday, February 17, at 11 a.m. ET. You can view a full list of sessions here. Pre-service and classroom educators can register for workshops, or view on demand sessions, by creating a free Learning Lab account through the LINK Portal or the <u>Indiana Learning Lab</u> directly and use your school email address to log in. Contact IDOE's <u>Office of Digital Learning</u> with any questions.

Registration is now open for TitleCon 2025: Learning from Yesterday, Planning for Tomorrow, which will be held in Plainfield from Tuesday, April 15, through Thursday, April 17. Learn more and register for this free conference here. Contact IDOE's Office of

waiver two (paraprofessional qualification requirements) or waiver four (Title IV spending requirements), was 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 Brittany Kronmiller.

REMINDER: Cohort 13 21st Century Community Learning Centers (21st CCLC) Request for

The 21st CCLC Cohort 13 RFP will go live on Friday, February 28, and close on Friday, August 15. 21st CCLC is a competitive grant that focuses on the development and enhancement of out-of-school time programs across the state. Schools (public.

NEW FROM KEEP INDIANA LEARNING: Certification Training for Sheltered Instruction Observation

mathematics, specifically for ELs and other students. This approach guides teachers in modifying their instructional language to ensure concepts and information are easily understood. Participate in this four-session workshop and achieve your SIOP

NEW FROM WESTED: Telling the Difference Between Second Language Acquisition and a Possible

What are best practices for isolating the source of an EL student's academic difficulties? How do educators know if a student's difficulty is related to second-language acquisition, a learning disability, or some other factor? In this webinar, Julie Esparza Brown (Portland State University) illustrates how a deep knowledge of the lives of English language learners can help educators assess students' English language acquisition progress and inform decisions about when- or if- to seek additional support.

REMINDER FROM THE READING LEAGUE INDIANA: Science of Reading Experts Explain Series In the next live Expert Explain series on Thursday, February 27, Dr. Holly Lane will present Using Data-Based Decisions to Plan for Differentiation. In this session, Dr. Holly Lane will introduce methods for measuring ongoing progress in foundational reading skills and using assessment data to plan and target small-group supplemental support. All sessions will be recorded and shared in the Indiana Learning Lab. See registration details here. Contact IDOE's Literacy Center with any questions.

SIOP is an innovative framework designed to enhance the teaching of content subjects such as science, history, and

REMINDER FROM THE INDIANA SCHOOL PUBLIC RELATIONS ASSOCIATION: Annual Conference Registration is Open Join INDSPRA, Indiana's leader in school public relations and communications, for their two-day annual conference at the Hilton Indianapolis. This year's conference includes sessions on AI, referendums, school merchandising, teacher recruitment and much more. Network and learn what's new in school public relations with other district leaders and communications professionals on Thursday, February 27, and Friday, February 28. Contact INDSPRA with any questions.

Stay Informed Did you miss a message? View previous weekly emails here. Dr. Jenner's Weekly Update from the Indiana Department of Education is distributed every Friday morning.

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View previous weekly updates from Dr. Katie Jenner here.

IDOE's Office of Title Grants and Support will continue hosting quarterly meetings to review federal grants updates, which are hosted at 10 a.m. ET on Thursday, March 6, and Thursday, May 8. Contact IDOE's Office of Title Grants and Support with any **REMINDER: Cohort Two of Ed-Flex Waiver Now Available** All LEAs with previously-approved Ed-Flex waivers must reapply for the 2024-2025 school year here. The deadline to apply for

community of practice. If you have questions, please contact Ryan Murray at CIESC.

(APWA): 2025 Scholarship Opportunity for Indiana High School Seniors

Registration is now open, and limited spots are available. Contact Employ Indy with questions.

REMINDER FROM PURDUE POLYTECHNIC: DO iT STEM Camp Program

REMINDER FROM EMPLOY INDY: Career Coaching

questions.

Manage Preferences <u>Unsubscribe</u>

information regarding the process of review once data analyses have been provided to IDOE from vendors following

with any questions.

Office of Information Technology

REMINDER: Curricular Materials Cost Visualization

NEW: November Tuition Support Payment

NEW: Membership Conflict Petition Process

UPDATED: 2025 Summer School Information

questions.

questions.

NEW: Applications for Spanish Visiting Teacher Program

Contact IDOE's Office of Educator Talent with questions.

NEW: Indiana Teacher of the Year Speaker Request

REMINDER: Praxis 5205 Test Guidance Educators using test vouchers (or any payment method) must review the Registration and Essential Checklist before registering for the Praxis 5205 here. Educators using test vouchers (or any payment method) who wish 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 ETS Praxis Customer Support or 1-800-772-9476.

There is a new data visualization available (Curricular Materials Cost) for school corporation leaders to review prior to public release in several weeks. This visualization shows the reported costs for curricular materials over the past two years and the average per student. Data was reported from schools to IDOE's Office of School Finance for the 2023-2024 and 2024-2025 school years and is available through the EdData platform in the LINK Portal for users at the school corporation level.

Office of School Finance

be found in this memo. Contact State Attendance Officer, Catherine Danyluk, with any questions. Office of School Support and Transformation

Draft Course Eligibility Guidance and Feedback: Course Eligibility Feedback Form Existing Work-Based Learning (WBL) Resources: Thoughts on Rethinking High School: Student Video Next Level Programs of Study

guidance updates will be discussed. No registration is required, and the access link can be found on the Indiana English Learner (EL) Professional Development Opportunities Calendar. More information can be found on IDOE's CoMP webpage. Contact IDOE's Office of English Learning and Migrant Education.

On Friday, April 11, IDOE will host <u>Dual Language Networking and Collaboration Day</u>, where dual language educators can share ideas and engage with colleagues to build and sustain dual language educational models. The event will be held in Franklin Township. For more information on timing, view the Indiana EL Professional Development Opportunities Calendar. Contact

IDOE's Office of Special Education hosts Directors Symposium sessions at least once per month for special education directors and administrators to learn more about special education policies and resources available. The next symposium session will take place on Wednesday, March 5, focused on the topics of statewide assessments and assistive technology. Register here to join the live symposium sessions. View previous session recordings and resources via Moodle. Contact IDOE's

Pursuant to Indiana Code (IC) 20-30-6.1-4, IDOE will publish an approved list of high-quality, age-appropriate internet safety curricula that schools may use to support their internet safety instruction by Tuesday, July 1. The application deadline has now been extended for providers seeking to be included on IDOE's Instruction on Internet Safety list. Potential curriculum providers can apply here. See this memo for additional information, and contact IDOE's Office of Kindergarten Readiness with any

ISPROUT continues to be required for children ages three through five with identified disabilities served by public schools. Join

Office of Teaching and Learning, Digital Learning, and

Indiana's CoMP benefits secondary multilingual students by validating their fluency across multiple languages. To learn more, join IDOE for an informational webinar on Thursday, March 6, from 3:30 to 4:30 p.m. ET. Participation, implementation, and

questions. **NEW: Early Learning Assessment System Informational Sessions** The Indiana Kindergarten Readiness Assessment (IKRA) and Indiana Student Performance Readiness and Observation of Understanding Tool (ISPROUT) will be available to any school corporation wishing to opt in for the 2025-2026 school year.

NEW: Deadline Extended for Instruction on Internet Safety Provider List

REMINDER: February PD with IDOE Continues February PD with IDOE continues on Wednesday, February 19, at 4 p.m. ET with The Gratitude Connection: Learning Through Relationships presented by IDOE's Digital Learning Specialist, Alisha Foor. View a full list of February sessions here. To 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 log in. Contact IDOE's Office of Digital Learning with any questions.

IDOE is excited to announce the release of two courses in the Indiana Learning Lab - Blended Learning Design & Delivery: K-5

and Blended Learning Design & Delivery: 6-12. These self-paced introductory courses provide an opportunity to build a foundational understanding of blended learning though a focus on blended learning basics, design, and implementation.

This flyer showing Indiana's recently published Al Guidance for Parents and Families is now available for schools to send to families in their community. This guidance, composed of short videos, supports parents with key AI topics, including AI literacy and AI security. Schools can also share this resource with parents and families via this Indiana Learning Lab link. Contact

non-public, and charter) as well as community-based organizations are eligible to apply, pending they meet eligibility criteria. Contact IDOE's 21st CCLC team with any questions. **News From Our Partners**

REMINDER FROM THE CENTRAL INDIANA EDUCATIONAL SERVICE CENTER (CIESC): Teacher Industry Experiences in Indiana (TIE-IN) - Bridging Classrooms & Industry Elevate your teaching with TIE-IN, a transformative program through a partnership between IDOE and CIESC, connecting educators with real-world industry insights. Open to all licensed Indiana educators, TIE-IN offers three unique opportunities, all of which include a stipend: formal coursework with state universities, personalized externships with industry partners, and immersive single-day visits to diverse businesses. Explore fields like healthcare, engineering, information technology, and more to enrich your curriculum, build professional networks, and create innovative, student-focused projects supported by a vibrant

REMINDER FROM THE INDIANA CHAPTER OF THE AMERICAN PUBLIC WORKS ASSOCIATION

civil engineering, environmental engineering, parks and recreation, municipal planning, public administration, public

The scholarship is awarded to a high school senior who would pursue a degree program in a public works related field including

works/municipal operations and fleet management among others. The degree may be through a university or technical school course of study and awards \$1000 annually for four years provided that the student demonstrates continued progress toward a public works field degree. A paid annual membership to the American Public Works Association is included with the award. Additional information can be found here. The application deadline is Friday, April 18. Contact APWA Indiana with any questions.

Marion County current and future career advisors are invited to join us for an empowering career coaching event at CIESC for a free, full-day conference on Wednesday, April 30. This even features speakers, breakout sessions, workshops, and networking.

High school juniors are invited to experience the various majors in Purdue Polytechnic Institute, one of the 10 academic colleges at Purdue University, while developing leadership skills and exploring campus life. This overnight stay from Thursday, March 6, through Friday, March 7, on Purdue's campus will provide a glimpse of the world of technology and how it can be used to overcome today's challenges through innovation and creativity. DO iT! is hosted by Purdue Polytechnic Institute's Women in Technology student organization, and all students are welcome to attend. Learn more here, and contact Kaili Chapman with

(in) **Weekly Updates**

DEPARTMENT of Dr. Jenner's Weekly Update