

Dr. Jenner's Weekly Update

Weekly Newsletter from the Indiana Department of Education

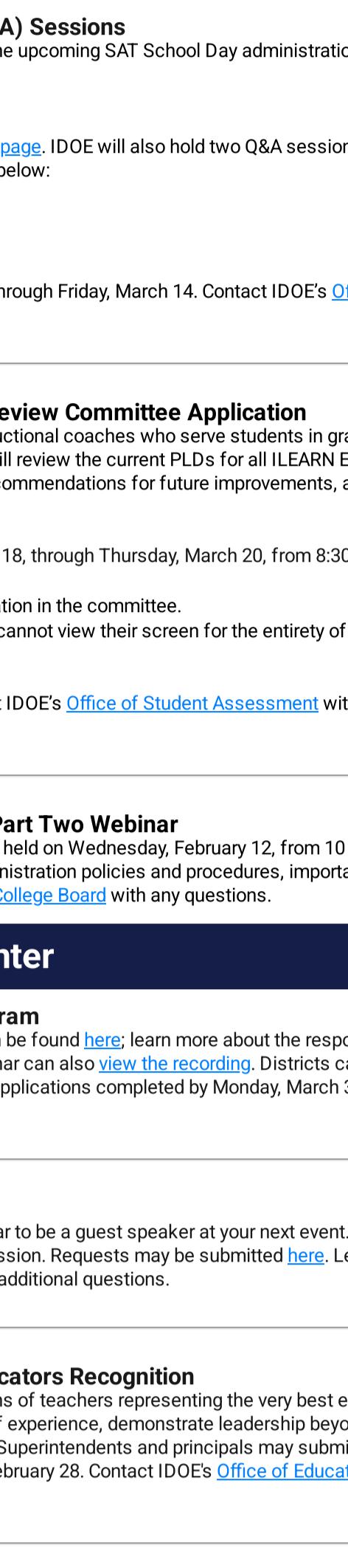
February 21, 2025

A Message from Dr. Katie Jenner

A couple of weeks ago it was CTE Day at the Statehouse, and multiple floors were bustling with CTE educators, as well as the students who have experienced some life-impacting learning, due to their CTE classes and their teachers!

Indiana's CTE programs are key in helping prepare students for their future, whether they plan to continue their education after high school or go directly into a career. This includes preparing them to improve their individual skill set and pursue their unique interests in areas such as advanced manufacturing, digital technology, healthcare, and agriculture. In recognition of all of the good work happening in Indiana schools, Governor Braun recently issued a [proclamation](#) to celebrate CTE month.

Here are some quick stats about participation in CTE programs, as well as their impact for students across our state...



- Over 250,000 middle and high school students enrolled in at least one CTE course so far this school year.
- There are over 70 available CTE programs of study, providing opportunities for students to explore a variety of career interests.
- 45% of the class of 2024 achieved CTE concentrator status, meaning they completed the first three courses in a CTE program of study.
- Nearly 13,000 students earned nine or more dual credits in their CTE pathway, which allowed them to make significant progress towards or earn a credential of value while still in high school.
- More than 8,100 CTE students participated in at least 75 hours of a work-based learning experience aligned to their CTE pathway of study, helping students learn and apply real-world skills.

You can read more about CTE in Indiana [here](#).

As we collectively consider how to make the four years of high school as relevant and valuable as possible for Hoosier students, CTE programs remain an important part of Indiana's education landscape. While there are many different schools we could highlight across the state, today I'd like to share a bit about a collaboration taking place in rural, southern Indiana.

Shoals Community School Corporation, Mitchell Community Schools, and Orleans Community Schools (also called COSMOS) linked arms in 2017 to increase the number of CTE opportunities and allow more of their students to access credentials of value and industry certifications. With the help of funding from community partners like the Regional Opportunities Initiative (ROI) and with input from local employers, Shoals, Mitchell, and Orleans were able to work collaboratively to ensure opportunities provided to students matched the needs of area businesses.

By combining their efforts, these three districts are now able to offer 20 shared CTE programs and courses, allowing for the completion of the Indiana College Core (ICC), as well as CTE credentials. This directly impacts the educational attainment of their local community and improves the lives of their students. Examples like COSMOS are happening all across our state and continue to open doors for Indiana students.

Thank you to the educators, employers, and higher education institutions who are leaning into these innovative partnerships, and as always, thank you for all that you do for Indiana students!

Office of Assessment

NEW: Second IREAD Summer Retest Opportunity Added

Grade three students now have two opportunities to participate in the IREAD Summer Retest. Previously, students could only test once during the window. Two testing attempts allow students to participate, for example, before and after summer reading programming. Contact IDOE's [Office of Student Assessment](#) with any questions.

NEW: WIDA ACCESS Testing Window Closes Friday, February 28

The WIDA ACCESS annual testing window closes next Friday, February 28. Schools must ensure that 100% of identified English learners (ELs) have participated, as federally required. Contact IDOE's [Office of Student Assessment](#) with any questions.

NEW: SAT School Day Testing Window Opens Monday, March 3

The Spring 2025 SAT School Day testing window is Monday, March 3, through Friday, March 14. Cohort 2026 students must participate in the assessment, and schools are encouraged to administer the SAT School Day early to ensure all students have time to complete testing. Refer to the [SAT School Day Milestones](#) and [SAT School Day Test Window Checklist](#) for an overview of preparation tasks. Contact IDOE's [Office of Student Assessment](#) with any questions.

REMINDER: Spring SAT & IREAD Question and Answer (Q&A) Sessions

DOE will hold one more Q&A session to address any questions regarding the upcoming SAT School Day administration.

- [Tuesday, February 25, from 8 to 9 a.m. ET](#)

Additional resources can be found on IDOE's [High School Assessment webpage](#). IDOE will also hold two Q&A sessions in preparation for the upcoming IREAD test administration. Join the sessions below:

- [Today, Friday, February 24, 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: ILEARN Performance Level Descriptor (PLD) Review Committee Application

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

- 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 committee due to test security purposes.

The application deadline was extended through Friday, February 28. Contact IDOE's [Office of Student Assessment](#) with any questions.

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

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 deadlines, and available resources. Register for the session [here](#). Contact College Board with any questions.

Office of Educator Talent & Literacy Center

REMINDER: Applications for Spanish Visiting Teacher Program

Details or the 2025-2026 school year Spanish Visiting Teacher Program can be found [here](#); learn more about the responsibilities 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. Contact IDOE's [Office of Educator Talent](#) with questions.

REMINDER: Indiana Teacher of the Year Speaker Request

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 about the Teacher of the Year [here](#), and contact IDOE's [program team](#) with additional 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 Nimble](#). Click [here](#) to learn more about the partnership, and opt in for [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 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 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 [Literacy Center](#) with questions.

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 software for another exam session. For support with Praxis, contact [ETS Praxis Customer Support](#) or 1-800-772-9476.

Office of Information Technology

UPDATED: Curricular Materials Cost Visualization

Based on feedback received from schools, the Curricular Materials Dashboard has been significantly revised. The revised dashboard is still embargoed, but is available for review through the EdData platform in the [LINK Portal](#) for school and corporation leaders. Please review the new dashboard prior to the public release in the following weeks. Contact IDOE's Director of Educational Technology, [Brad Hagg](#), with any 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, 2024, 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 capacity 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 Finance

NEW: School Finance Office Hours

Join IDOE's Office of School Finance on [Tuesday, February 25, at 10 a.m. ET](#) for office hours. No prior registration is required. Topics include a review of the excessive transfer calculation, a reminder about the financial transparency upload, summer school estimated costs, and indirect cost rate applications for fiscal year 2026. Contact IDOE's [Office of School Finance](#) with any questions.

REMINDER: 2025 Summer School Information

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 Hemmert](#) or [Alex Waite](#) with questions.

REMINDER: Transfer Request Deadline Closes Friday, April 11

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 be found in [this memo](#). Contact State Attendance Officer, [Catherine Danyuk](#), with any questions.

Office of School Support and Transformation

REMINDER: Annual 1003 Flexibility Waivers

IDOE's Office of School Support and Transformation is now accepting applications for 1003 flexibility waivers. Flexibility waivers can improve more about school operations, and promote and validate learning opportunities. Interests are now open for applications. More information and links to join can be found [here](#). Contact IDOE's [Office of Student Pathways and Opportunities](#) with any questions.

- Contact [here](#) for additional information.

REMINDER: CAREER READINESS: Production Grant Application

Indiana's CAREER READINESS: Production Grant application is now open for the 2025-2026 school year. Applications are due April 15, 2025. Contact [here](#) for additional information.

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