



Dr. Jenner's Weekly Update

Weekly Newsletter from the Indiana Department of Education

February 28, 2025

A Message from Dr. Katie Jenner

As we reach the end of February, many places across the state experienced warmer weather and sunshine this week, reminding us that spring is just around the corner. It seems like every year around this time, we get a temporary sneak peak into spring, and the additional sunlight is just the boost of energy many of us need to get through the final few weeks of Indiana winters.

As you may know, this past week also marked the halfway point of the 2025 legislative session. Today, I'd like to take a moment to reflect on our top legislative priorities and our shared successes in the first half.

Continuing to Increase Teacher Compensation

One of Governor Braun's agenda bills – a bill focused on increasing teacher compensation – received unanimous support in the Senate. Specifically, this bill:

- **Fooths Teacher Pay:** The average teacher salary in Indiana has continued to go up and is now over \$60,000. This bill continues to move the needle on this topic by increasing the base salary from \$40K to \$45K and directing at least 65% of a school's state tuition support toward teacher compensation (currently 62%) to put more money in our teachers' pockets.
- **Strengthen Our Teacher Pipeline:** Helps to recruit additional teachers by remaining laser-focused on our highest need areas, including special education, English learner, and STEM teachers, and continues to ensure quality teacher preparation programs through increased transparency.

Improving Foundational Math Skills

This is another key priority for Indiana this legislative session, which received unanimous support in the House. This bill includes a focus on:

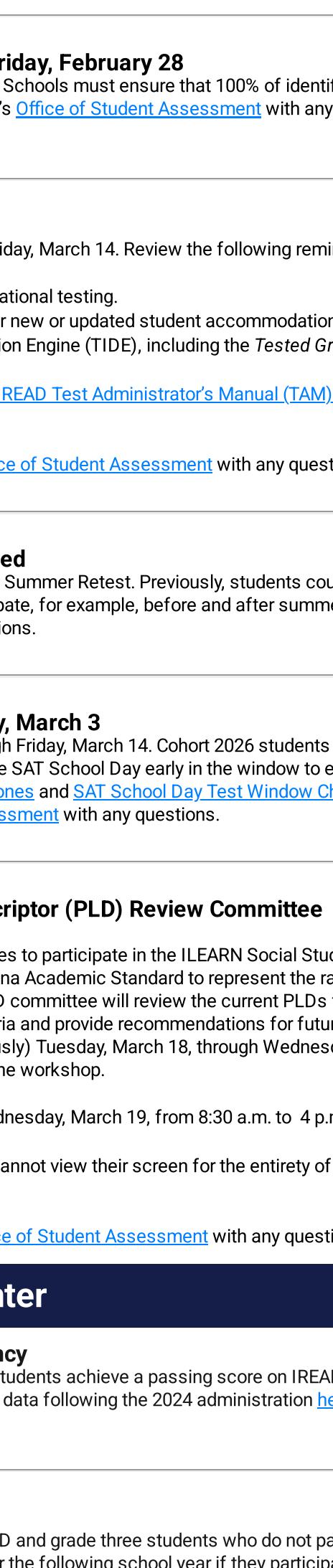
- Utilizing a **universal math screener** to determine students at risk of not meeting grade level proficiency (Note: Nearly 90% of K-2 students currently participate in an approved screener);
- Providing **targeted, early interventions** for K-8 students who have not achieved grade level proficiency;
- Ensuring students who are high performers 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.

These pieces of legislation are just two of many that will now switch chambers for further discussion and consideration. Thank you to everyone who reached out throughout the first half to share solutions ideas on these and many other bills. I encourage you to continue to do so during the second half as we work to make all education-related legislation the best it can be for Hoosier students!

I also want to take a moment to acknowledge our educators across the state who are gearing up for the spring assessment windows. Over the past three years, hundreds of schools have opted in to administer IREAD to second grade students in order to gain valuable information about whether a student is on-track to read by the end of third grade. As a reminder, [here's a look back](#) at how our second graders performed in 2024 and what our third graders were able to achieve given the additional support from one year to the next.

This March will be the first time that all second graders across the state participate in IREAD, allowing us to gain valuable data, [even earlier](#), and ultimately, ensure all students receive the reading support they need. As we keep our foot on the gas pedal to ensure students are proficient readers by the end of third grade, the use of IREAD with second grade students will continue to be a vital part of our multi-level approach to improving literacy.

As the IREAD testing window opens on Monday, I want to extend a huge thank you to our teachers and many others on our school teams for all of their preparation. And as always, thank you for the role each of you play in making education better for our students!



Office of Assessment

NEW: SAT School Day & IREAD Monitoring

DOE's Office of Student Assessment will conduct virtual and onsite monitoring visits during the [SAT School Day](#) and [IREAD](#) testing windows from Monday, March 3, through Friday, March 14, to ensure fidelity of test administration and test security requirements. Contact DOE's [Office of Student Assessment](#) with any questions.

REMINDER: WIDA ACCESS Testing Window Closes Today, Friday, February 28

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

NEW: IREAD Testing Window Opens Monday, March 3

The IREAD Spring 2025 testing window is open Monday, March 3, through Friday, March 14. Review the following reminders:

- Ensure all students have participated in the [practice test](#) prior to operational testing.
- Additional orders for paper testing materials close Friday, March 7, for new or updated student accommodations.
- Ensure student data is accurate within the Test Information Distribution Engine (TIDE), including the [Tested Grade setting](#) for grade four and five students.
- Ensure that test administration materials are prepared, including the [IREAD Test Administrator's Manual \(TAM\)](#) and [accommodated scripts](#), as needed.

Refer to the [IREAD Milestones](#) for an overview of tasks. Contact DOE's [Office of Student Assessment](#) with any questions.

REMINDER: 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 DOE's [Office of Student Assessment](#) with any questions.

REMINDER: 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. 2026 students must participate in the assessment, and schools are encouraged to administer the SAT School Day in early March 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 DOE's [Office of Student Assessment](#) with any questions.

REMINDER: ILEARN Social Studies Performance Level Descriptor (PLD) Review Committee Application Now Available

DOE is seeking grade five social studies educators and instructional coaches to participate in the ILEARN Social Studies PLD Review Committee. PLDs provide content-specific claims across each Indiana Academic Standard to represent the range of expectations for student performance within each proficiency level. The PLD committee will review the current PLDs for the grade five ILEARN Social Studies assessment against research-based criteria and provide recommendations for future improvements as appropriate. This workshop will meet virtually (synchronously) the week of March 18, through Wednesday, March 19. Participants will receive a honorarium of \$320 upon full completion of the workshop.

- The committee will meet virtually on Tuesday, March 18, through Wednesday, March 19, from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. ET via Microsoft Teams, and training is included during the workshop.
- 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 [Joint application](#) deadline is Friday, February 28. Contact DOE's [Office of Student Assessment](#) with any questions.

Office of Educator Talent & Literacy Center

NEW: Requirements for Schools Below 70% IREAD Proficiency

Pursuant to [Indiana Code \(IC\) 20-30-7-13 \(d\)](#), schools where fewer than 70% of students achieve a passing score on IREAD must implement specific requirements outlined in this [memo](#). Confirm your IREAD data following the 2024 administration [here](#). Contact DOE's [Literacy Center](#) with any questions.

NEW: Individual Reading Plan Guidance and Template

IC 20-30-7-13 (d) requires all grade two students who earn "A Risk" on IREAD and failing grade three students who do not pass IREAD to participate in an individual reading plan aligned with science of reading for the following school year if they participate in less than 90% of the required summer reading program. DOE has released [additional guidance](#) and a [template](#) to support schools in meeting this requirement. Contact DOE's [Office of Student Assessment](#) for IREAD support, [Literacy Center](#) for the science of reading support, or [Office of School Finance](#) regarding summer school program support.

NEW: Nominations Open for the Indiana History Teacher of the Year Award

In partnership with DOE, the [Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History](#) awards the Indiana History Teacher of the Year title each year in its effort to promote the study and love of American history. State winners are then considered for the National History Teacher of the Year award. For more information about the nomination process and to nominate an Indiana history teacher, click [here](#). Nominations must be submitted by Wednesday, April 30. Contact DOE's [Office of Educator Talent](#) with any questions.

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 view the [recording](#). Districts can express interest by completing the [application](#), and priority will be given to applications completed by Monday, March 31. Contact DOE's [Office of Educator Talent](#) with questions.

REMINDER: Indiana Teacher of the Year Speaker Request

DOE 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 DOE's [program team](#) with additional questions.

REMINDER: Recommendations Open for Distinguished Educators Recognition Due Today, Friday, February 28

DOE's Office of Educator Talent is looking for confidential recommendations of teachers representing the very best educators in Indiana. These emerging leaders must 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 today, Friday, February 28. Contact DOE's [Office of Educator Talent](#) with any questions.

REMINDER: Opt-In to Utilize DOE's Supply and Demand Marketplace

It's not too late to sign up to utilize Indiana's Educator Supply and Demand Marketplace and hiring tools through DOE's [partnership with Nimble](#). Click [here](#) to learn more about the partnership, and opt in for free recruitment and hiring tools. View the [case study](#) for one district that tripled their applicant volume using these tools. Contact DOE'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 [Key to Literacy options](#). Educators planning to take Indiana's Early Literacy Endorsement should register [here](#) to request a Praxis voucher, if needed. Contact DOE's [Literacy Center](#) with any 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 [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.

Office of Information Technology

NEW: Curricular Materials Cost Visualization Now Public

The Curricular Materials Dashboard is now publicly available [here](#) following an embargo period where significant changes were made to the dashboard from the field. The Dashboard is also accessible from the LINK Portal. Contact DOE's [Office of School Finance](#) with any questions.

REMINDER: E-rate Match for Fiber Construction Now Available

DOE 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, 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's funding on a one-to-one dollar basis. Full application details are available [here](#). Contact DOE's Director of Educational Technology, [Brad Hagg](#), with any questions.

Office of School Finance

REMINDER: 2025 Summer School Information

The window to submit the [Estimated Cost Report for Summer School 2025](#) is now open. Review [this memo](#) for information regarding eligible courses, important dates, and financial provisions. Contact [Teresa Hemmerle](#) or [Alex Waite](#) with any questions.

REMINDER: Membership Conflict Petition Process

Charter schools may file a petition to the Indiana Office of School Finance. Friday, March 14, is the deadline for a school corporation or charter school to file a petition. Contact DOE's [Office of Student Assessment](#) with any questions.

REMINDER: Transfer Request Deadline Closes Friday, April 11

IC 20-30-11-22 requires public school corporations that accept out-of-district students to report the date that they received a request from their school to transfer. Requests for transfer must be submitted to the Indiana Office of School Finance by Friday, April 11. More information can be found [here](#). Contact State Attendance Officer, [Catherine Danyliuk](#), with any questions.

Office of School Support and Transformation

NEW: 1003 Flexibility Waivers Webinar

DOE's Flexibility Waiver Participants will host a webinar and process [Wednesday, March 14, from 10 a.m. ET](#) on the end of the 2024-2025 school year. Contact [Teresa Hemmerle](#) or [Alex Waite](#) with any questions.

REMINDER: Individual Reading Plan Guidance and Template

IC 20-30-7-13 (d) requires all grade two students who earn "A Risk" on IREAD and failing grade three students who do not pass IREAD to participate in an individual reading plan aligned with science of reading for the following school year if they participate in less than 90% of the required summer reading program. DOE has released [additional guidance](#) and a [template](#) to support schools in meeting this requirement. Contact DOE's [Office of Student Assessment](#) for IREAD support, [Literacy Center](#) for the science of reading support, or [Office of School Finance](#) regarding summer school program support.

NEW: Nominations Open for the Indiana History Teacher of the Year Award

In partnership with DOE, the [Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History](#) awards the Indiana History Teacher of the Year title each year in its effort to promote the study and love of American history. State winners are then considered for the National History Teacher of the Year award. For more information about the nomination process and to nominate an Indiana history teacher, click [here](#). Nominations must be submitted by Wednesday, April 30. Contact DOE's [Office of Educator Talent](#) with any questions.

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 view the [recording](#). Districts can express interest by completing the [application](#), and priority will be given to applications completed by Monday, March 31. Contact DOE's [Office of Educator Talent](#) with questions.

REMINDER: Indiana Teacher of the Year Speaker Request

DOE 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 DOE's [program team](#) with additional questions.

REMINDER: Recommendations Open for Distinguished Educators Recognition Due Today, Friday, February 28

DOE's Office of Educator Talent is looking for confidential recommendations of teachers representing the very best educators in Indiana. These emerging leaders must 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 today, Friday, February 28. Contact DOE's [Office of Educator Talent](#) with any questions.

REMINDER: Opt-In to Utilize DOE's Supply and Demand Marketplace

It's not too late to sign up to utilize Indiana's Educator Supply and Demand Marketplace and hiring tools through DOE's [partnership with Nimble](#). Click [here](#) to learn more about the partnership, and opt in for free recruitment and hiring tools. View the [case study](#) for one district that tripled their applicant volume using these tools. Contact DOE'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 [Key to Literacy options](#). Educators planning to take Indiana's Early Literacy Endorsement should register [here](#) to request a Praxis voucher, if needed. Contact DOE's [Literacy Center](#) with any 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 [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.

Office of Title Grants and Support

REMINDER: Cohort Two of E-rate Waiver Now Available

All LEAs with previously-awarded E-rate waivers must apply for the 2024-2025 school year. The E-rate will be available on a weekly basis. Contact DOE's [Office of Title Grants and Support](#) with any questions.

REMINDER: Cohort Two of E-rate Waiver Now Available

All LEAs with previously-awarded E-rate waivers must apply for the 2024-2025 school year. The E-rate will be available on a weekly basis. Contact DOE's [Office of Title Grants and Support](#) with any questions.

REMINDER: Cohort Two of E-rate Waiver Now Available

All LEAs with previously-awarded E