



Dr. Jenner's Weekly Update

Weekly Newsletter from the Indiana Department of Education

March 27, 2026

A Message from Dr. Katie Jenner

I always love getting out into Indiana schools! Recently, I enjoyed spending some time in northwest Indiana with educators and students at Valparaiso High School and Porter County Career and Technical Education. It was a jam-packed morning filled with really impressive work...from life sciences to precision machining to robotics and more, as well as excellent feedback on how we can continue working together to improve K-12 education for our students. Today, I'd like to highlight just a snapshot of what we saw, which represents just a few of the pathway options available to students in Valparaiso!

One highlight of the visit was meeting with students in the aviation and flight class. In high school, these students practice on multiple simulators and even have the opportunity to get in-person flight hours! In the classroom, I was able to climb in as co-pilot with one of the students and was amazed at how realistic the experience was...the simulator actually moves (as if you're feeling turbulence in a real plane). I wasn't sure what to expect, but our student pilot remained calm, focused, and confident. I'm happy to report that we completed our flight without incident!



After safely deboarding "the plane," one of our next stops was meeting with a group of future teachers. As I've shared previously, I truly believe that being an educator is a calling, reflecting a strong desire to help others. My highlight of this part of the visit was hearing directly from the students--what inspires them and how their high school has helped set them up for their future goals and dreams.

Later in the day, we stopped by a live radio program with Gianna, an award-winning student radio host who aspires to be a journalist. In between announcing some of the new local rock band songs, she was like a pro transitioning to a quick, impromptu interview where she asked thoughtful questions and kept the flow of the show.

As we work to better prepare students for their unique path ahead...whether they choose to enroll, employ, or enlist, I also appreciated how Valparaiso High School prominently honors their graduates who serve in the Army, Marine Corps, Navy, Air Force, Space Force, Coast Guard, as well as the National Guard. It was very clear how much Valparaiso appreciates those who serve our country and why they are one of Indiana's Purple Star Schools.

Thank you to the entire Valparaiso team for giving us a firsthand look at the impactful work you do day-in and day-out to prepare students for their future. And as always, thank you to each of you for all that you do for our Indiana students.

Legislative Guidance

REMINDER: Teacher Appreciation Grant (TAG) Distributions

The Indiana Department of Education (IDOE) will distribute TAG allocations to school corporations and charter schools that completed all required procedures on or about Monday, March 30. Stipends must be distributed to identified teachers within 60 business days of receiving the funds from IDOE. Excess/undistributed funds must be returned before Tuesday, June 30, to the following address:

Indiana Department of Education
C/O Derek Deuth
Indiana Government Center North, 9th Floor
100 N. Senate Avenue
Indianapolis, IN 46204

In the memo please indicate: 2025 TAG Excess. Contact TAG@doe.in.gov with questions.

Office of Accountability

REMINDER: School and Corporation Profile Amendment Window

The school and corporation profile amendment submission window for the 2026-2027 school year will be open beginning Wednesday, April 1, through Monday, August 31. In order to ensure IDOE maintains accurate information, all schools and corporations must provide notice when changes are made that affect school openings, closures, and reconfigurations. Information on the submission process can be found [here](#). Contact IDOE's Office of Accountability with any questions.

Office of Assessment

NEW: SAT School Day Score Release

Spring 2026 SAT School Day scores will become available to educators on Tuesday, March 31, via [College Board's K-12 Reporting Portal](#). Scores will become available to students on Thursday, April 2. Scores are available to students via their College Board student account, in the BigFuture School App, and/or a printable PDF from their school. Contact [College Board](#) with any questions.

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

REMINDER: Public Comment Window for K-12 Social Studies Standards and Content Connectors

Committees of K-12 and postsecondary social studies educators convened to recommend updates to the Indiana Academic Standards and Content Connectors for K-12 Social Studies. The draft standards and content connectors are now available for public comment through 11:45 p.m. ET on Friday, April 10. Stakeholders can access and provide feedback on the draft standards and content connectors via this [Jotform](#). This input will be used to refine standards, and final recommendations will be presented to the Indiana State Board of Education later this year. Contact IDOE's Office of Curriculum and Instruction with questions.

Office of Educator Talent and Literacy Center

NEW: The Literacy Leadership Series Workshop, "Leveraging MTSS for Adolescent Literacy"

Join IDOE for the next Literacy Leadership Series workshop, "Leveraging MTSS for Adolescent Literacy," from 2 to 3 p.m. ET on Tuesday, March 31, with Dr. Sarah Brown. 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 features national reading science and systems design experts and showcases 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.

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 begin at 10:30 a.m. ET on Wednesday, April 1. Click [here](#) to join. Learn more by visiting the Indiana Acadience webpage [here](#). Contact the [Literacy Center](#) with any questions.

REMINDER: Recommendations Open for Distinguished Educator Recognition

IDOE is seeking confidential recommendations of educators representing the very best 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 Friday, April 24. Contact IDOE's Office of Educator Talent with any questions.

Office of School Finance

REMINDER: Estimated Average Daily Membership (ADM) Data Requested

The window to submit estimated ADM data for fiscal year (FY) 2027 will close today, Friday, March 27. View this [memo](#) for additional details on how to submit this data. Contact IDOE's Office of School Finance with any questions.

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.

REMINDER: Common School Loans

IDOE's Office of School Finance will accept applications for construction and technology common school loans from corporations, charter schools, and school corporation career and technical education schools through Monday, April 6. Petitions must be submitted to IDOE by this date to be considered. The application and other details can be found in the [Public School Finance Community in Moodle](#) under Common School Funds - Spring. Contact IDOE's Office of School Finance with any questions.

Office of School Support & 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 this [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 [Georgja Watson](#) with any questions.

Office of Student, School, and Family Engagement

REMINDER: Military Compact 101 Training

IDOE is offering a Compact 101 training for school counselors and/or student service professionals on Wednesday, April 8, at 12 p.m. ET. This session highlights why it is especially critical to understand and support military-connected students whose families are not located near a military base. Without access to on-base resources, these students often rely heavily on their schools for stability, consistency, and knowledge of the Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunity for Military Children. Counselors who complete the training and accompanying quiz will receive a certificate of completion, which may be used for Purple Star School applications and/or PGP prizes. Click [here](#) for more information, and click [here](#) to register. Contact [Rebekah Frazer](#) with any questions.

REMINDER: Alternative Education New Program Proposal Submissions for the 2026-2027 School Year

The submission window is currently open for new alternative education program proposals for the 2026-2027 school year for schools that do not currently have an approved alternative education program. The submission window closes on Tuesday, March 31. The proposal link can be found [here](#), under Documents and Resources. Currently approved alternative education programs that wish to establish a new alternative education program should consult with IDOE's Alternative Education team for guidance. Contact IDOE's [Alternative Education team](#) with any questions.

Office of Special Education, English Learning, and Migrant Education

NEW: Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) Part B Data Verification Office Hours

IDOE's Office of Special Education will hold office hours to support data verification. Click the links below to join.

- [Monday April 6, 9:30 to 10:30 a.m. ET](#)
- [Friday April 10, 1 to 2 p.m. ET](#)

REMINDER: Aspiring Special Education Leadership Institute Cohort Seven

The Indiana Council of Administrators of Special Education (ICASE) offers a one-year leadership development program, the Aspiring Special Education Leadership Institute (ASELI), that prepares educators for special education leadership roles to improve outcomes for all students. ASELI is currently accepting [applications](#) for cohort seven until Tuesday, March 31. ASELI is composed of teachers, school psychologists, counselors, and principals who aspire to be special education administrators and are committed to a career in special education leadership. ASELI is not available for currently licensed special education directors. For questions, contact specialeducation@doe.in.gov.

REMINDER: IDEA Part B Annual State Application

All states applying for funding under IDEA Part B are required to allow public review and comment on the application and proposed budget. The application, developed by the U.S. Department of Education's Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP) includes a summary of assurances, certifications, and fund usage descriptions that Indiana will use to fulfill IDEA Part B requirements. Access the application on IDOE's [Special Education webpage](#). Feedback may be submitted [here](#) through Tuesday, April 21. Upon OSEP's approval of Indiana's Part B application, the state will receive a federal grant award to implement necessary services for students with disabilities for July 1, 2026, through September 30, 2028. Contact IDOE's [Office of Special Education Part B team](#) with any questions.

REMINDER: Maintenance of Effort (MOE) for Part B Funding

The window to submit Year 5 Compliance and Year 6 Eligibility for IDEA Part B FY 27 funding is now open. MOE workbooks are due today, Friday, March 27, within the [grant management system](#). Local educational agencies (LEAs) without an approved MOE workbook will receive a fiscal specialist before completing their workbook. New charters that have not received an MOE workbook will receive a workbook by email with a different due date. FY 26 December 1, 2024 child counts have been placed in the [Office of Special Education Moodle Community](#) (i.e., Fiscal - Part B Grants for Special Education - FY26 Grant Information - Maintenance of Effort - Year 5). LEAs with questions should contact their fiscal specialist.

REMINDER: English Learner (EL) Exit Criteria Training on Thursday, April 23

IDOE's EL team will host a training on the process to exit eligible students from EL status through an additional evidence review on Thursday, April 23, from 3 to 4 p.m. ET. The training will occur alongside the release of updated guidance. The meeting link can be found on the [Indiana EL PD Opportunities Calendar](#). Contact IDOE's [Office of English Learning and Migrant Education](#) with any questions.

REMINDER: Migrant Education Program (MEP) Work Survey Administration

In accordance with federal regulations, the MEP Work Survey must be administered annually to all students in Indiana. As LEAs work to create registration processes for the coming year, please ensure that the work survey is included in the students' annual registration packet. Schools must keep this survey on file until the following year. Upon receipt of positive responses to the first two questions, corporations must contact their respective [Migrant Regional Center \(MRC\)](#) so that they may determine final eligibility. MRCs will provide supplemental services for eligible migratory students. IDOE recommends that LEAs registering families via an electronic Student Information System (SIS) work with their IT department to arrange for automatic emails to be sent to their MRC in the case that positive responses are recorded on the work survey. This will ensure that the LEA is following federal regulations associated with receiving Title I funds. More information and frequently asked questions about the MEP can be found [here](#). Contact IDOE's [Office of English Learners and Migrant Education](#) with any questions.

REMINDER: Monthly Science of Reading for English Learners Office Hours

You are invited to join the monthly statewide virtual office hours for the Science of Reading for English Learners (SORELL) initiative! These one-hour sessions are a valuable opportunity for Indiana educators to engage in collaborative discussions, seek solutions, and receive technical assistance and guidance on implementing the science of reading principles with all students, including ELs. The next session will be held on Monday, March 30, from 3 to 4 p.m. ET. The meeting link and information can be found on the [Indiana EL PD Opportunities Calendar](#). Please contact IDOE's [Office of English Learning and Migrant Education](#) with any questions.

News From Our Partners

NEW FROM ASCEND INDIANA: Regional Work-Based Learning (WBL) Support Network and Resource Hub

In partnership with IDOE, Ascend Indiana developed and launched a comprehensive set of resources that provide step-by-step guidance, examples, and design considerations aligned with Indiana's new diploma requirements. Ascend also established and equipped a network of regional partners that will coordinate, expand, and enable high-quality WBL across the state. The new WBL resources include practical tools that make it easier for educators, employers, and community organizations to create meaningful, career-connected experiences for students. These tools are available on Ascend's Work-based Learning webpage by clicking [here](#).

NEW FROM THE INDIANA NATURAL RESOURCES FOUNDATION: Discover the Outdoors Grants Now Open

Applications are now open through Thursday, April 30, for Discover the Outdoors grants, which provide up to \$500 to support field trips to Indiana State Parks. Grants can cover K-12 schools' transportation costs, program fees, and other applicable material costs. The grant application is available [here](#). Read more about the impact of this grant by clicking [here](#). Contact [Amanda Anez](#) with questions.

NEW FROM NEXTECH: Month of Artificial Intelligence (AI) Webinar Series

April is the Month of AI! Join Nextech throughout April for a series of webinars exploring AI, designed to deepen your knowledge and help you explore practical tools. These sessions are open to all educators and an hour of professional growth points (PGP) is awarded for each session. A schedule of webinars and registration links can be found [here](#). Contact stephanie@nextech.org with questions.



Weekly Updates

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

Stay Informed

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

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