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Dr. Jenner's Weekly Update

Weekly Newsletter from the Indiana Department of Education

May 29, 2026

A Message from Dr. Katie Jenner

Probably like you, this time of year my social media feeds are full of first-day to last-day of school picture comparisons...and graduation pictures! Throughout all of this, there are always unique, inspiring stories from those final days of the school year. One of these stories, which I'd like to share today, comes from southeastern Indiana, where a very special graduate – who is now 100 years old – received his long-awaited high school diploma last weekend.

Earlier this year, we received an interesting phone call from Superintendent Karl Galey of Lawrenceburg Community School Corporation. He had a unique request to recognize a local WWII veteran, **George Klopp Sr.** has always been an active and well-known member of the community, including within Lawrenceburg Community School Corporation, where his children and grandchildren all went to school. Yet even though Mr. Klopp is known well throughout their community...what was not known until recently is that **due to his desire to serve our nation in WWII, he missed his high school graduation by just a few weeks.**

Mr. Klopp enlisted in the Navy as soon as he turned 18 and was ultimately deployed to the South Pacific, where he protected a Navy base hospital. When the war ended, he continued his service in American Samoa and later Pearl Harbor. Still thousands of miles from his home in Indiana, Mr. Klopp recalls that he knew he had finally made it back home to the continental U.S. when he saw the iconic Golden Gate Bridge.

This past April, much to his surprise, he finally received his well-earned diploma at the City of Lawrenceburg's America 250 Celebration...more than 80 years after he attended high school. And to get the full graduation experience, Mr. Klopp was also invited to last Sunday's graduation ceremony, where he walked across the stage to a resounding applause and standing ovation. For the thousands of students and community members in attendance, it was a moment they'll likely never forget...and that's especially true for one Lawrenceburg Primary School teacher, Ms. Allison Johnson, who happens to also be Mr. Klopp's granddaughter! Check out this [local story](#), to see the heartwarming moment.



Mr. Klopp, congratulations on earning your diploma! Thank you for your service to our country, and for being such a tremendous example of courage, sacrifice, and service for generations of Lawrenceburg residents...and for all of us as Americans. Also, a huge shout out the leadership at Lawrenceburg Community School Corporation for making this moment possible!

As always, thank you for all that you do for Hoosier students, and have a great weekend!

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

NEW: High Ability Differentiation Series

Join the Indiana Department of Education (IDOE) and high ability experts this summer for the Unlocking Potential: High Ability Differentiation Series in the Indiana Learning Lab. High ability educators, coordinators, and administrators are invited to [register now](#) for the first two sessions in the series. Session one, held Thursday, July 9, from 10 to 11:30 a.m. ET, will explore the science of reading for all learners. Session two, scheduled for Tuesday, July 28, from 1 to 2 p.m. ET, will address common myths about high ability learners and strategies to meet their unique needs in the classroom. Contact IDOE's [Office of Curriculum and Instruction: High Ability](#) with any questions.

Office of Educator Talent and Literacy Center

REMINDER: Now Accepting Nominations for the 2027 Indiana Teacher of the Year

The Indiana Teacher of the Year Program works to inspire, rejuvenate, and celebrate the teaching profession by recognizing outstanding teachers from across the state. Schools are encouraged to participate in the state's annual selection process which is now open and concludes in fall 2026. Local schools and Teacher(s) of the Year are encouraged to complete [this application](#) by 5 p.m. ET on Friday, July 3, as the first step in the application process. More information regarding the Indiana Teacher of the Year selection process can be found [here](#). Contact intoy@doe.in.gov with any questions.

REMINDER: 2026-2027 Annual K-8 School Reading Plan

[Indiana Code \(IC\) 20-32-8.5](#) and [511 Indiana Administrative Code \(IAC\) 6.2-3.1](#) require all public, charter, and non-public schools, including choice scholarship eligible schools, with students enrolled in kindergarten through grade eight to submit an annual reading plan to IDOE by Tuesday, June 30. IDOE's Literacy Center released the [2026-2027 annual K-8 reading plan guidance](#). Contact IDOE's [Literacy Center](#) with additional questions.

Office of Special Education, English Learning, and Migrant Education

NEW: Summer Spotlight Session - English Learner (EL) Exit Criteria

IDOE's English Learning team will host a virtual session on Monday, June 8, at 10 a.m. ET to spotlight updates to the exit criteria for determining proficiency for eligible ELs. In this session, key information found in the recently revised [2026-2027 Exit Criteria for English Learners Guidance](#) will be reviewed, along with time for questions and answers. Visit the [Indiana EL Professional Development Opportunities Calendar](#) for the meeting link. Contact IDOE's [Office of English Learning and Migrant Education](#) with any questions.

NEW: Center on Education and Lifelong Learning (CELL) School Leadership Initiative Cohort 1

IDOE's Office of Special Education, in partnership with CELL, is pleased to announce the participants of the first cohort of school leaders for the CELL School Leadership Initiative (CSLI). CSLI is a two-year leadership development program designed to better equip Indiana principals to unify educational systems, create and lead inclusive school environments, and support the success of all students. This first cohort includes 50 building administrators from 27 school districts across Indiana. Congratulations to [Cohort 1](#)!

REMINDER: Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) Part B Proportionate Share Office Hours Date Change

The IDEA Part B Proportionate Share Office Hours previously scheduled for Wednesday, May 27, has been rescheduled to Thursday, June 11. This session is especially relevant for local educational agencies (LEAs) with proportionate share balances or those planning to complete a Proportionate Share Release. Fiscal year (FY) 2025 IDEA Part B 611 and 619 grants will close on Wednesday, September 30. This forum will answer questions and provide support for LEAs to expend funds for students with disabilities who are parentally placed in a non-public or homeschool setting. Additionally, IDOE's Equitable Services Ombudsman will be present to share best practices for meeting both initial and ongoing consultation requirements. Click the link below to join:

- [Thursday, June 11, from 12:30 p.m. to 2 p.m. ET IDEA Part B Proportionate Share Office Hours](#)

REMINDER: Annual Excess Cost Funding Application Pause

As part of the annual fiscal year close-out process, excess cost funding applications are temporarily paused until July. Applications for FY 2027 may be submitted beginning Wednesday, July 1, when the new application becomes available. Any applications submitted before that date will not be reviewed.

REMINDER: FY 2027 Special Education Grant Assurances Due Wednesday, July 1

The FY 2027 IDEA Part B Grant Assurance template and instructions for using the Grant Management System are now available here: [Moodle>Fiscal>Part B Grants for Special Education>FY27 Grant Information>Assurances](#). To reserve the earliest reimbursement effective date for the FY 2027 Part B grant period, schools must submit correctly completed Assurances for the FY 2027 Part B grants in the Grant Management System on or before Wednesday, July 1. Please contact partbgrants@doe.in.gov with any questions.

REMINDER: FY 2027 General Education Provision Act (GEPA) Forms Due Wednesday, July 1

To comply with Section 427 of GEPA, LEAs requesting IDEA Part B funds must have an approved GEPA statement of compliance on file. If an LEA needs to update its GEPA Section 427 form, a new form will need to be completed and uploaded to IDOE's grant management system. The GEPA form can be found in [Moodle>Fiscal>Part B Grants for Special Education>FY27 Grant Information>GEPA Section 427](#). All questions must be answered on the GEPA form. Contact partbgrants@doe.in.gov with additional questions.

Office of Title Grants and Support

REMINDER: FY 2027 Pre-Application

The FY 2027 Pre-Application is available through the [Title Grants Pre-Application Collection](#) in the Indiana Learning Lab. All instructions, forms, and submission information may be found within the collection. Please ensure a [Learning Lab account](#) has been registered in order to access the collection. The Pre-Application is due Wednesday, July 1. Please note that reimbursement eligibility begins Wednesday, July 1, or the date at which the Pre-Application is submitted in reviewable PDF format, whichever is later. The recording from the Thursday, April 30, quarterly meeting is now also available in the collection. Please contact Title@doe.in.gov with any questions.

Indiana Commission for Higher Education

REMINDER: 2026-2027 Credentials of Value List Released

Indiana's [new high school diploma requirements](#) include a focus on providing students the opportunity to increase their educational attainment by earning credentials of value in high school. On May 31, 2025, the first Credentials of Value (CoV) list for high schools was released, effective for the 2025-2026 school year. To increase clarity and ease of access, the [2026-2027 High School Credentials of Value List](#) has been reorganized into a single spreadsheet. Information on navigating the new list layout can be found in this [joint memo](#) from IDOE and the Indiana Commission for Higher Education. Questions regarding the new Credentials of Value list can be directed to COV@che.in.gov.

News From Our Partners

NEW from KEEP INDIANA LEARNING (a department of the CIESC): Summer Professional Development

Keep Indiana Learning has a wide variety of professional development opportunities available this summer! Featuring both half-day and full-day sessions with virtual and in-person options, Keep Indiana Learning has something for every role in the PK-12 school community. [Secure your spot early](#), as seats for select sessions are limited. [View the full summer schedule and register today](#). Please contact [Keep Indiana Learning](#) with questions.



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