Dr. Jenner's Weekly Update

Weekly Newsletter from the Indiana Department of Education

January 10, 2025

A Message from Dr. Katie Jenner

Happy New Year, and welcome back! What is one way to start the semester off on a high note? Take a look at the Indiana Department of Education's work plan, which lists our priorities for 2025. Many of our work plans are aligned with our existing work but it always helps to refocus and reset.

In Wednesday's IDE legislative session preview, I shared our work plan with our legislators. I'm sharing it with you, too. It's a long-term strategic plan, but it's also a working document that we can use to pull out and refer to as we work together to ensure that every in-person and virtual meeting is focused on our priorities.

We have a lot of work to do, and we can't do it without you. We need your resources from the pros and cons and your goals for the year ahead. Today, I'm sharing the work plan with you and I'm asking you to share it with your teams. This is the work we do together, and we need your input and your partnership. Let's make this year a great one for our students. Let's make it a great one for our Hoosier kids!

Library

- Statewide, chart paper library was measured by the **Intercontinental year**, and 2024 represented the **Year of Indiana Libraries**. Our work plan includes:
  - **Specific statewide organizations** to partner with and grow.
  - **Black students, students in special education, and students receiving free/reduced-price lunch** are our focus for library card and resource access.
- **Nearly 300 schools** have received an open IDOE library weeding grant.
- The **year 100** students are participating in Dolly Parton's Imagination Library.
- Our work plan includes:
  - Continue to grow the Indiana Library Federation's Intellectual Freedom Committee and the support physical and digital access to resources.
  - Continue to grow the Indiana Library Federation's Intellectual Freedom Committee and the support of the schools that did participate in the Library Cards.
  - Continue to promote the Indiana Library Federation's "Ask a Librarian" for parents/families and students to become a resource and to navigate through the world of information. Ask a Librarian is:
    - Scheduled questions: 380 in spring 2023, 1,000 in spring 2024, and 1,275 by spring 2024.
    - Unscheduled questions: 1,000 in spring 2024.
- **Indiana Learning Lab**: Our new virtual platform for teachers and families of instructional resources, lesson plans, and professional learning. Our work plan includes:
  - Our **increased of over 20,000 users** since 2021 (8,000 users in 2021, to over 70,000 today).
  - Continue to grow and improve the **free and high-quality library of teaching materials**, along with professional learning.
  - Offer part-time, students who attended the Summer Learning Labs in 2024 around Indiana to become student ambassadors for the Learning Lab.
  - Have **5,000 student ambassadors** by June 2025.

Rethinking High School

- In December, chart paper from a year of stakeholder feedback, the Indiana State Board of Education unanimously approved the final diploma rule, which is designed to maximize the four years of high school.
- Draft proposals were presented before the August meeting from the Rethinking High School Committee, which included the following: Indiana's graduation requirements, the Indiana Academic Honors requirements for each student, as well as the opportunity for students to earn mastery-based credit toward graduation.
- **Indiana's graduation requirements will increase from 40 credits to 42 credits**, which is the national average for Higher Education, in conjunction with colleges and universities.
- **Indiana Academic Honors requirements will increase from 60 credits to 62 credits**, which the Commission for Higher Education and Indiana's universities and colleges have asked for.
- **Indiana's Academic Honors will include a Career Pathway Capstone**, which is a project that ties together the Career Pathway and Indiana's Academic Honors.
- **Indiana's Career Pathways Capstone and Indiana's Academic Honors Capstone will be aligned**, which will be a project that ties together the Career Pathway and Indiana's Academic Honors.
- **Crossing the Finish Line**: A growing number of students earn a credential that high school graduates need to be successful in their career pathway, but they don't finish the last few credits they need to graduate. Crossing the Finish Line partnerships with school districts **have connected approximately 1,** from 2 and Tennessee to their their credentials.
  - **Over 1,000 students have earned credits.**
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- **Indiana's Career Pathways Capstone: Over 1,000 students have earned credits, along with 25 of Indiana's students participating in the Career Pathways Capstone.**
  - Statewide, graduation rates increased:
    - Graduation rate: 84.8% in 2023, 85.8% in 2024, 87.2% in 2025 (8 percentage point increase).
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    - Students in special education: 70.4% in 2023, 72.4% in 2024, 74.0% in 2025 (3.6 percentage point increase).
    - Students receiving free and reduced-price lunch: 75.4% in 2023, 77.4% in 2024, 79.0% in 2025.

Office of Accountability

IDOE Releases Accountability Results, Statewide Improvement Shown

Accountability results are released for school year 2023-24. Overall, the results continue to be a mixed bag. Statewide, there is improvement in several areas, but there is still work to do. Some of the highlights:

- Statewide, graduation rates increased for several students, as compared to some of the state indicate regarding:
  - Graduation rate: 84.8% in 2023, 85.8% in 2024, 87.2% in 2025 (8 percentage point increase).
  - Students in special education: 70.4% in 2023, 72.4% in 2024, 74.0% in 2025 (3.6 percentage point increase).
  - White students: 84.8% in 2023, 85.8% in 2024, 87.2% in 2025 (8 percentage point increase).
  - Black students: 84.8% in 2023, 85.8% in 2024, 87.2% in 2025 (8 percentage point increase).
  - Students in special education: 70.4% in 2023, 72.4% in 2024, 74.0% in 2025 (3.6 percentage point increase).
  - Students receiving free and reduced-price lunch: 75.4% in 2023, 77.4% in 2024, 79.0% in 2025.

Kindergarten Readiness Rate Increases

- **Over 1,000 schools opted in to pilot the coronavirus assessment the school year**. Learning the coronavirus assessment was a pilot program for kindergarten readiness assessment. Kindergarten readiness assessment is a pilot program for kindergarten readiness assessment. The coronavirus assessment is a pilot program for kindergarten readiness assessment.
  - The assessment will foster three conceptions and a universal coronavirus assessment at the kindergarten level.
  - The two-day assessment will foster three conceptions and a universal coronavirus assessment throughout the year, allowing for targeted instruction for students who are working towards kindergarten readiness.

Discipline by the Numbers Report

Data by factors, the educators capacity and demand mobilization has been integral in helping to identify and implement strategies to address the challenges that students face in the classroom. Some of the highlights are as specifically designed to help students who are facing high-need areas with high-quality instruction.

- **IDOE**, alongside the impacted communities, has worked to coach high-need educators. The coaches have been **instrumental in helping students who are facing high-need areas with high-quality instruction.**
  - **Over 1,100 participants are currently enrolled, and nearly 600 have completed the program.**
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Again, these are just some of our shared successes, and in 2025, we must continue to lay the groundwork for our students. Our work plan includes:

- **Continue to grow the Indiana Career Pathways and AP Potential Webinar**: Indiana Career Pathways and AP Potential Webinar has been **instrumental in helping students who are facing high-need areas with high-quality instruction.**
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Office of Assessment

IDOE Releases Updated Career Tools Career Insights and AP Potential Webinar

College Board's AP Tool, Career Insights and AP Potential Webinar for counselors and administrators and for teachers. Topicing