

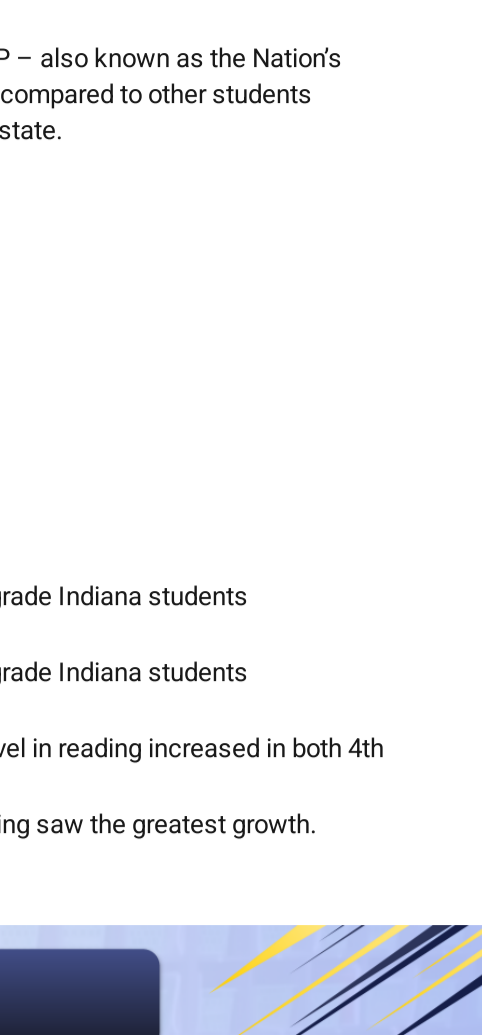
Dr. Jenner's Weekly Update

Weekly Newsletter from the Indiana Department of Education

February 7, 2025

A Message from Dr. Katie Jenner

Last week, I spent some time congratulating you and the many educators, parents, and others who have worked to improve Indiana's reading scores. While it's always good to take time to celebrate, as an educator said to me today on this exact topic, "When you win the game on Friday night you swing back to practice on Monday."



Yes, we had some successes in reading. Where the nation went down, Indiana saw increases in 4th and 8th grade reading. The jump in 4th grade reading was especially promising because not only did we move the needle for our highest performing students (75th and 90th percentile), but we also were one of few states that saw significant growth for our students who struggle the most (10th and 25th percentile)—more to come on this below.

Now, let's talk a bit about math performance. While our rankings are decent compared to other states, when digging into the state our math performance shows we did not grow like we need to. In fact, in 4th grade math, we lagged behind the national score increase, and in 8th grade math, scores continue to trend down in Indiana and nationwide.

So while national headlines on this topic are full of doom and gloom, I see it as an opportunity to keep getting better. We see that all of the efforts happening around the state for reading are showing promising early results... our shared question is how might we leverage what we've learned in our reading progress to now deploy supports for math improvements?

Before we dig more deeply into the data and rankings, a quick level-set. NAEP—also known as the National Report Card—provides a snapshot of how Indiana's students are performing compared to other students across the nation; it is the only assessment which can be compared state to state.

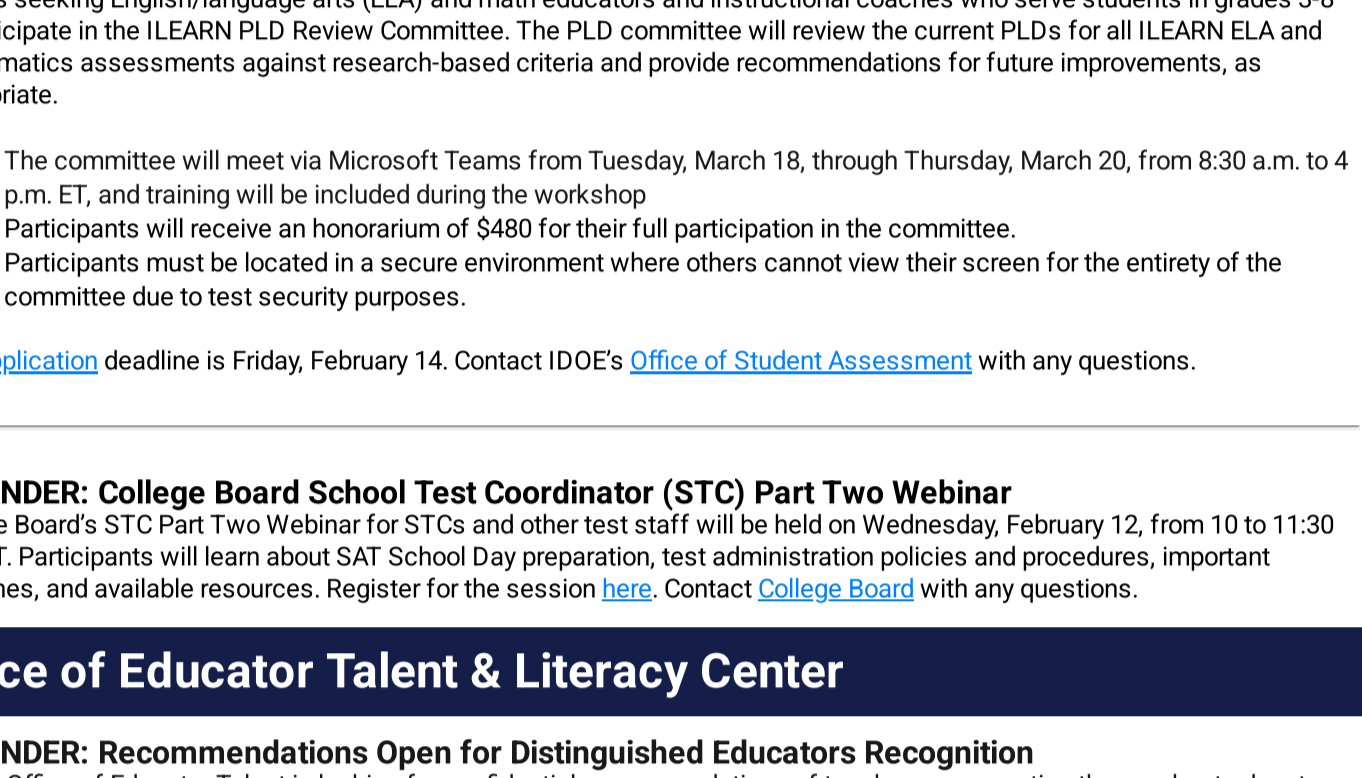
Below is an overview of Indiana's latest rankings in reading and math:

- **4th Grade Reading** - 6th in the nation (previously 19th)
- **8th Grade Reading** - 6th in the nation (previously 17th)
- **4th Grade Math** - 9th in the nation (previously 11th)
- **8th Grade Math** - 13th in the nation (previously 11th)

Other key takeaways from the data include:

Reading

- While nationwide the average scale score decreased two points, 4th grade Indiana students demonstrated a three point average scale score increase.
- While nationwide the average scale score decreased two points, 8th grade Indiana students demonstrated a one point average scale score increase.
- In Indiana, the percentage of students who scored at the advanced level in reading increased in both 4th and 8th grade.
- 4th grade students who have historically struggled the most with reading saw the greatest growth.



@EducateIN

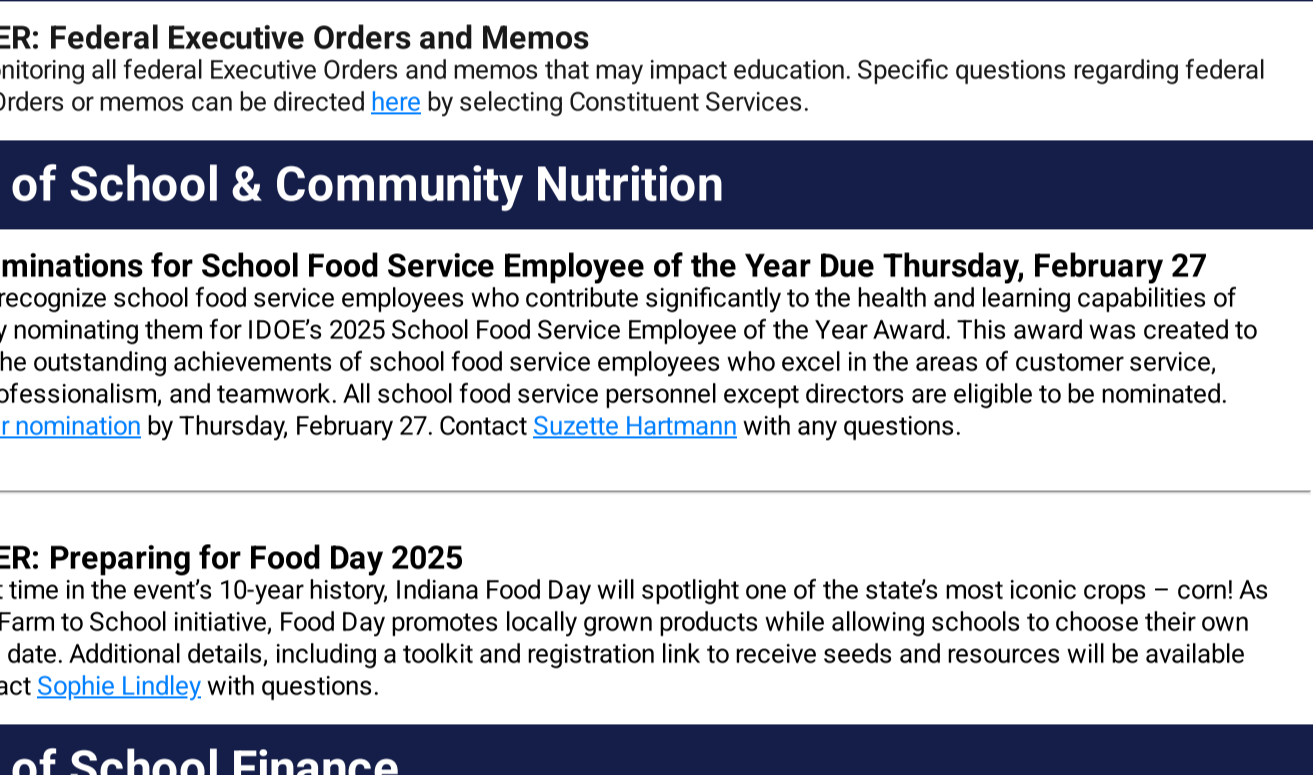
Math

- 4th grade Indiana students demonstrated a one point average scale score increase in math compared to a two point average scale score increase nationwide.
- 8th grade Indiana students demonstrated a one point average scale score decrease in math compared to a one point average scale score decrease nationwide.
- In Indiana, the percentage of students who scored at the proficient level in math increased in both 4th and 8th grade. The percentage of students who scored at the advanced level also increased in 4th grade.
- 4th and 8th grade students who have historically struggled the most with math saw the most significant drops.

As mentioned above, this is the chart I was telling you about (see below) that represents students divided into percentile bands (representing their performance) and the average scale score growth (the black line at 0 represents the baseline or no growth, and ideally, we want to see the color-coded bars above the black line to indicate growth). You can see that the highest growth across the board occurred in 4th grade reading—specifically check out the highest rate of all, which are our students who struggle the most (10th and 25th percentile).

Science of reading strategies and interventions are absolutely helping—we must keep at it! And, this also illustrates the urgency to help more of our struggling students in adolescent reading and in both levels of math.

2022-2024 NAEP Percentile Growth



As mentioned, a lot of opportunity in math...and next week, we will dig more into this. I also look forward to hearing from you on specific strategies and actions helping students locally.

Final quick thought - talking to many of you over the past few weeks, it is evident there is a lot of sickness going around in all corners of the state. As the flu and other illnesses spike, I hope you, your students, and your loved ones are able to stay healthy in the days and weeks ahead.

As always, thank you for all that you do for our students!

Office of Assessment

NEW: Spring 2025 SAT School Day Address and Answer (Q&A) Sessions
IDOE will hold two February Q&A sessions to address any questions regarding the upcoming SAT School Day administration, which is open Monday, March 3, through Friday, March 14.

- [Tuesday, February 18, from 3 to 4 p.m. ET](#)
- [Tuesday, February 25, from 8 to 9 a.m. ET](#)

Additional resources can be found on IDOE's [High School Assessment webpage](#). Contact IDOE's [Office of Student Assessment](#) with any questions.

NEW: 2024-2025 Assessment Data Forensics Analysis
IDOE has outlined the process for assessment data forensics review for spring 2025. This [memo](#) provides additional information regarding the process of review once data analyses have been provided to IDOE from vendors following testing. Contact IDOE's [Office of Student Assessment](#) with any questions.

NEW: IREAD Q&A Sessions & Testing Windows
IDOE will hold two Q&A sessions this month in preparation for the upcoming IREAD test administration. Join the sessions below:

- [Friday, February 21, 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 Now Available
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 review-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.
- Committee will 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](#) is Friday, February 14. 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: 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. Educators using testing vendors (or any payment method) who wish to use a school-owned computer to take and submit the assessment should contact the Literacy Center for more information. 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
IDOE is once again participating in the E-Rate Market Program for special educator recruitment and hiring tools through IDOE's [partnership with Nspire](#). Click [here](#) to learn more about the partnership, and opt in for free [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](#) online 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 2025 Test Guidance
Educators using test vendors (or any payment method) must review the Registration and Essential Checklist before registering for the [Praxis 2025 Test](#). Educators using testing vendors (or any payment method) who wish to use a school-owned computer to take and submit the assessment should contact the Literacy Center for more information. 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.

Office of Information Technology

REMINDER: Curricular Materials Cost Visualization
There is a new data visualization available (Curricular Materials Cost) for school corporation leaders to review prior to public release in several weeks. This visualization shows the reported costs for curricular materials over the past two years and the average per student. Data was reported from schools to IDOE's Office of School Finance for the 2023-2024 and 2024-2025 school years and is available through the EdData tool in the [LINK P3/EdData](#) for users at the school corporation level.

REMINDER: E-Rate Match for Fiber Construction Now Available
IDOE is once again participating in the E-Rate Market Program for special educator recruitment and hiring tools through IDOE's [partnership with Nspire](#). Click [here](#) to learn more about the partnership, and opt in for free [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: Identify New IEP/ILP Support Contacts by Today, Friday, February 7
IDOE is collaborating with the PowerSchool Special Programs to implement Indiana's new Individual Education Program (IEP) and Individualized Learning Plan (ILP) for school year 2025-2026. IDOE is currently licensing Indiana teachers to add a special education role in the LINK Portal and Data Exchange system. To support this transition, IDOE has added a new IEP/ILP support role in the LINK Portal and Data Exchange system.

- **What's Needed:** Security coordinators must identify up to two individuals for this new role by today, Friday, February 7. These contacts will serve as system experts for the platform, be authorized to restrict access to PowerSchool exams (IEP and ILP), and receive a Praxis voucher for their role.
- **Assigning the Role:** Manually add contacts in the LINK Security Power. Instructions can be found [here](#).

Student information system (SIS) vendors will be notified of this new role, with data integration expected next school year. Please note that PowerSchool Special Programs is separate from the system that experienced a recent data breach. Contact IDOE's [IT Helpdesk](#) with additional questions.

Office of Policy and Government Affairs

REMINDER: Federal Executive Orders and Memos
IDOE is monitoring all federal Executive Orders and memos that may impact education. Specific questions regarding federal Executive Orders or memos can be directed [here](#) by selecting Constituent Services.

Office of School & Community Nutrition

NEW: Nominations for School Food Service Employee of the Year Due Thursday, February 27
IDOE recognizes school food service employees who contribute significantly to the health and learning capabilities of students in Indiana. The Indiana School Food Service Employee of the Year Award. This award was created to recognize the outstanding achievements of school food service personnel who excel in the areas of customer service, attitude, professionalism, and teamwork. All school food service employees except directors are eligible to be nominated. Submit [your nomination](#) by Thursday, February 27. Contact [Suzette Hartman](#) with any questions.

REMINDER: Preparing for Food Day 2025
For the first time in the event's 10-year history, Indiana Food Day will spotlight one of the state's most iconic crops – corn! As part of the Farm to School Initiative, Food Day promotes local grown products while allowing schools to choose their own part of the celebration. Additional details, including the toolkit and registration link to receive seeds and resources will be available soon. Contact [Sophie Lindsey](#) with questions.

Office of School Finance

NEW: 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 Office, [Catherine Danville](#), with any questions.

NEW: Form 9 Financial Data Reporting
Please see [this memo](#) regarding the Form 9 financial report for January to June 2025. 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 2024 will open on Monday, February 17. Review [this memo](#) for information regarding eligible courses, important dates, and financial provisions. Contact [Teresa Hemmelte](#) or [Alex Waite](#) with any questions.

REMINDER: Indirect Cost Rates for Fiscal Year (FY) 2026
The Office of School Finance is now accepting applications from local education agencies (LEAs) eligible to receive FY 2026 Indirect Cost Rates. School corporations and charter schools that provided Form 9 financial information for FY 2024 are eligible to receive the 2025 Indirect Cost Rates. The application process is open to all licensed Indiana educators. If you are not eligible to be subject to the median rate, see [this memo](#) includes the application instructions. Contact [indoe.in.gov](#) with any questions.

Office of School Support and Transformation

NEW: 1003 Flexibility Waiver Webinar
IDOE's Office of School Support and Transformation is holding a webinar on [Thursday, February 13, from 10 to 11 a.m. ET](#) on the 1003 Flexibility Waiver. Participants will learn about the requirements and processes for filing the waiver with time at the end dedicated to attendee questions. Superintendents are encouraged to attend. Contact [Georgia Watson](#) with any questions.

REMINDER: Annual 1003 Flexibility Waivers
IDOE's Office of School Support and Transformation is now [accepting applications](#) for 1003 Flexibility Waivers. Flexibility waiver waivers is offered to help support schools in their design efforts to improve student performance and outcomes, improve the efficiency of school operations, and promote innovative educational approaches to student learning. Applications can read more about the opportunity in the [memo](#) and [Flexibility Guide for Indiana's K-12 Schools](#). Interested parties are now open and will be accepted on a rolling basis through Friday, April 25. Contact [Georgia Watson](#) with any questions.

Office of Student Pathways and Opportunities

NEW: January Graduation Pathways Office Hours
Slides from the January webinar are available [here](#). Additional resources that will be helpful as you engage in student support and services are linked below.

- Draft Course Eligibility Guidance and Feedback:
 - [Course Eligibility Feedback Form](#)
- Existing Work-Based Learning (WBL) Resources:
 - [Thoughts on Rethinking High School Student Video](#)
 - [Next Level Programs of Study](#)
 - [Graduation Pathways Policy Guidance](#)

Contact IDOE's [Office of Student Pathways and Opportunities](#) with any questions.

REMINDER: February Graduation Pathways Office Hours
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Office of Special Education, English Learning, and Migrant Education

NEW: Submitting the 2024-2025 Parent Survey
To reduce school costs, local educational agencies (LEAs) are encouraged to have parents complete the [parent survey](#) and utilize the online form. IDOE encourages all parents to complete the survey, as their feedback is essential in helping us improve our schools and better serve our students. Tips for increasing parent survey response rates include:

- Promote the survey to parents through multiple channels, such as email, social media, and school websites.
- Provide parents with clear instructions on how to complete the survey.
- Ensure parents are aware the best way to complete the survey is online.
- Provide the survey in the language parents are most comfortable with. The survey is available in English, Spanish, and Burmese.

Completed forms and additional questions may be sent to IDOE's [Office of Special Education](#).

NEW: IDEA Part B Updated Allowable Costs List
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NEW: I AM Advocations Justifications for LEAs Exceeding 1%
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REMINDER: Special Education Directors Symposium
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REMINDER: Transition Individual Education Program (IEP) and Portfolio Intersections Series
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REMINDER: Virtual English Learner (EL) Leadership Meeting on Wednesday, February 12
IDOE's Office of English Learning and Migrant Education will host the next EL Leadership Meeting virtually from 10 to 11:20 a.m. ET on Wednesday, February 12. This meeting is intended for Indiana K-12 leaders and administrators who are eligible to apply for less commonly taught languages, with financial need, and from a variety of school districts. Applications will be accepted on a rolling basis through Saturday, April 5. Complete the nomination form here. For more information, visit IDOE's [Certificate of Multilingual Proficiency webpage](#) or contact IDOE's [Office of English Learning and Migrant Education](#).

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