



Indiana Department of Education

Dr. Katie Jenner, Secretary of Education

January 27, 2025

This monthly newsletter from the Indiana Department of Education (IDOE) Office of Special Education (OSE) includes resources, guidance, and support for special education directors, educators, and administrators who provide essential services that Indiana's students with disabilities need to learn and thrive.

Monitoring

Early Childhood Special Education Collaborative
IDOE's Office of Special Education hosts quarterly Early Childhood Special Education Collaborative meetings to provide state and subcommittee updates focused on inclusion, transitions for post-school, child outcomes, field transformation, and the State Systemic Improvement Plan. Attendees are invited to provide feedback in both full group and subcommittee meetings, with more in-depth work completed during subcommittees. Complete [this form](#) to sign up for emails and meeting invitations.

Indiana IEP

Indiana IEP (IIEP) Virtual Office Hours
Join IIEP virtual office hours sessions hosted by Public Consulting Group (PCG) on the third Wednesday of each month from 11 a.m. to noon ET via Microsoft Teams. Sessions will also be recorded and available in IIEP under the Training tab. [Register for the next session on Wednesday, February 19](#), to learn more about system updates and upcoming changes, followed by a question and answer session. Contact [PCG](#) with questions.

Statewide IEP Platform Transition Coming Soon
IDOE is transitioning from Indiana IEP to PowerSchool's Special Programs platform for managing IEPs beginning with the 2025-2026 school year. This new platform has been designed with feedback from schools to ensure its efficiency and effectiveness. Some key benefits include consistency across Indiana schools and new features like parent letters, translations, accommodations flow, and streamlined reporting. The 2025 transition timeline is outlined below.

- October 2024: User Acceptance Testing (UAT) completed
- February and March: Security role testing
- March and April: Data migration testing
- March through May: Training for leadership and teachers
- June: Statewide data migration
- July: Go live

All data and finalized documents from the current system will migrate to the new platform. Training resources will be provided prior to the go live date. Contact IDOE's [Office of Special Education](#) with additional questions as we prepare for this migration.

Identify New IEP/ILP Support Contacts by Friday, February 7
IDOE is collaborating with PowerSchool Special Programs to implement Indiana's new IEP and Individualized Learning Plan (ILP) software for the upcoming school year. 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 Friday, February 7. These contacts will serve as system experts for the platform, be authorized to reach out to PowerSchool technical support, and receive applicable training on the 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 Help Desk](#) with additional questions.

Fiscal

Non-Public School Consultation Documentation: Submit by Friday, February 7
All public LEAs with a fiscal year (FY) 2025 Part B proportionate share requirement must scan and email the following documentation to IDOE's [Part B grants team](#) by Friday, February 7.

- A written affirmation of timely and meaningful consultation (pursuant to 34 CFR §300.134) signed by representatives of participating non-public schools and parents of parentally placed non-public school students with disabilities (pursuant to 34 CFR §300.135).
- If the representatives do not provide written affirmation within a reasonable time, the LEA must forward documentation of the non-public consultation process.
- This documentation must be submitted by each LEA that is required to set aside a proportionate share of its FY 2025 Part B grant funds for the provision of equitable services (specialized instruction and related services) to parentally placed students with disabilities attending non-public schools, including home schools, located within their district boundaries.

Contact IDOE's [Part B grants team](#) with additional questions.

Technical Assistance and Professional Development

Special Education Teacher Office Hours
IDOE's Office of Special Education technical assistance (TA) team will hold office hours for new special education teachers from 4 to 5 p.m. ET on Thursdays once a month. These meetings will support teachers new to special education in navigating a variety of pertinent topics. The first part of the office hour will be a formal presentation on a relevant topic followed by an open Q&A for teachers of record (TORs). The next session will be Thursday, February 13, with a focus on goal writing. Dates and topics for the rest of the year can be found [here](#), and [registration is required](#). Contact IDOE's [Office of Special Education](#) with any questions.

Special Education Directors Symposium
Special education directors and administrators are invited to attend the monthly Office of Special Education's Directors Symposium, which will continue to share about relevant policies and resources available to LEAs. The symposium provides timely information to increase confidence in their roles and reporting compliance. Complete the [interest form](#) to be added to the list for updates regarding the symposium. The next session will be on [Thursday, February 6](#), focusing on students with sensory loss and spotlighting the special education resource network, including IEP TA Center, ATLAS, and IN*SOURCE. Recordings will be uploaded to the Office of Special Education Moodle course in the Technical Assistance Resource folder. Upcoming topics and dates can be found [here](#). Contact IDOE's [Office of Special Education](#) with any questions.

Special Education Licensure, Recruitment, and Retention

U.S. Department of Education (ED) Principal Navigator for Special Educator Retention
ED released [new guidance](#) highlighting the critical importance of retaining special educators in their positions and the crucial role principals play in retaining special education personnel. The [Principal Navigator for Special Educator Retention](#) includes high-leverage practices and actionable steps that can be used immediately by local administrators to improve the retention of special education personnel. Please be sure to check out the navigator and its tools and disseminate them to your networks.

Updates from ED

ED's Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP) New Resources
Two new resources are now available from ED's OSEP, including [Educational Environments of Children with Disabilities Served under IDEA Part B Section 619](#) and [Part B Personnel](#). These resources spotlight data on personnel and educational environments of children with disabilities in early childhood settings and are packed with visualizations to help interpret and share data.

Using Functional Behavioral Assessments (FBAs) to Create Supportive Learning Environments
ED released guidance on the development of Functional Behavior Assessments (FBAs) and the role of an FBA in informing instructional strategies to support the behavioral needs of students. The [Using Functional Behavioral Assessments to Create Supportive Learning Environments guidance](#) provides educators with the tools needed to anticipate and prevent behaviors that interfere with learning through the development of Behavior Intervention/Support Plans (BIPs/BSPs). The desired outcomes of this guidance include improved academic performance, improved social and emotional competence, reduced exclusionary discipline, and improved school organizational health and school climate. Contact IDOE's [Office of Special Education](#) with any questions.

Additional Updates, Resources, and Opportunities

Save the Date for TitleCon 2025
TitleCon 2025 will bring together hundreds of Indiana educators, including superintendents, principals, program administrators, teachers, and fiscal representatives from LEA, charter schools, and non-public schools across the state. This two-day conference on Wednesday, April 16, and Thursday, April 17, will feature keynote speakers and several breakout sessions designed to provide schools with programmatic and fiscal guidance to advance federal education programs in their respective communities. This year will also feature a pre-conference on Tuesday, April 15, to provide additional learning opportunities regarding student groups and additional specialty programs. More information regarding registration, hotel block information, and specific conference details will be provided soon.

Upcoming Dates



Thursday, February 6	Special Education Directors Symposium
Friday, February 7	Deadline to identify new IEP/ILP Support Contacts in the LINK portal and DEX
Friday, February 7	Deadline to submit documentation for LEAs with FY 2025 proportionate share requirements
Thursday, February 13	Special Education teacher office hours
Wednesday, April 16, through Thursday, April 17	TitleCon 2025



Department News

1/15/2025 Secretary Jenner Unanimously Elected as State Board of Education Chair for Fifth Consecutive Year

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