



Indiana Department of Education

Dr. Katie Jenner, Secretary of Education

April 27, 2026

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.

Fiscal

RoboKind Grant Opportunity: 2026-2027 School Year

Through House Enrolled Act 1001 (2025), the Indiana Department of Education (IDOE) is offering the RoboKind Grant for selected schools and corporations to purchase robotic technology and provide CASE-endorsed professional development that supports the social and behavioral development of students with autism. RoboKind's programs are delivered by engaging virtual avatars. While the programs no longer require a physical robot, districts currently implementing the robot-led program may continue using their robots if applying for a renewal. Existing partner districts will also receive access to the virtual avatar-led programs in addition to their current robot-led implementations. RoboKind supports research-based curriculum across social skills and phonics. Information, applications, and the budget form can be accessed [here](#). Email the signed application and excel budget form to robokind@doe.in.gov to submit your application. Contact robokind@doe.in.gov with additional questions.

Data Verification

The data verification process for the Fiscal Year (FY) 2027 Part B Grant has now been initiated and notifications have been sent to all special education directors. This is an important opportunity for each local education agency (LEA) to carefully review the counts that will determine both the Part B allocations and the proportionate share multipliers ahead of the grant's official opening on July 1, 2026.

Please thoroughly examine the data verification materials and submit any updates or corrections through the Grant Management System by Friday, May 1. This deadline is crucial, as it represents your final chance to make any changes impacting FY 2027 IDEA Part B allocations.

Thank you for your attention and diligence in ensuring the accuracy of this information. Reach out to partbgrants@doe.in.gov with questions.

IDEA Part B Proportionate Share Office Hours

IDOE's Office of Special Education Part B fiscal team will be hosting Office Hours to assist LEAs that have proportionate share balances or are planning to complete a Proportionate Share Release. The FY 2025 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 parentally placed in a non-public or homeschool setting. IDOE's Equitable Services Ombudsman will also share best practices with initial and ongoing consultation requirements for LEAs. Please send any proportionate share questions that you would like addressed during Office Hours to partbgrants@doe.in.gov. Questions must be submitted by Monday, April 27.

- [Thursday May 21, from 10 to 11 a.m. ET - Proportionate Share Consultation and Releases](#)
- [Wednesday May 27, from 1 to 2 p.m. ET - Proportionate Share Consultation and Releases](#)

Important Changes to Medicaid Administrative Claiming (InMAC)

Beginning Wednesday, July 1, program requirements will change to align with updated federal guidance from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS). Key changes include:

- Required enrollment as an Indiana Medicaid provider. Please see the [Medicaid Enrollment memo](#).
- InMAC Quarterly procedural changes. Please see the [IndianaMAC Updates memo](#).

Contact schoolmedicaid@doe.in.gov with any questions.

Monitoring

Early Childhood Special Education Directory

In response to requests from educators and school leaders, we are creating an Early Childhood Special Education Directory. To be part of this directory, LEAs are invited to complete [this voluntary form](#). Once this directory information is gathered, a searchable format will be created and posted to the Office of Special Education Moodle to assist LEAs in connecting with colleagues around the state about topics of interest in early childhood special education. Contact osemonitoring@doe.in.gov with any questions.

Dispute Resolution

Dispute Resolution Data

Dispute resolution data involving complaints, mediations, and due process hearings is available for the current fiscal year. View the [Dispute Resolution Data](#) charts for a monthly breakdown.

IDOE Special Programs

Important Update for Special Education Directors and Data Managers

As we approach the end of the 2025-2026 school year, please review the following important reminders regarding staff changes and access to Special Programs via the LINK Portal and ODS.

Technical Contact Updates

If your LEA needs to update the technical contacts who are authorized to submit support tickets, a current technical contact may make this change in the PowerSchool Community Customer Connect. If assistance is needed, please contact ragains1@doe.in.gov.

1. Director Changes Must Be Updated Before Tuesday, June 30.

If your Special Education Director is retiring or transitioning out of the role at the end of this school year, please ensure that the new director's information is updated in the LINK Portal no later than Tuesday, June 30.

The Operational Data Store (ODS) will roll over to the 2026-2027 school year on Wednesday, July 1, and failure to update director information before the rollover may result in delays in system access for incoming directors.

2. Special Education Director Security Group Assignment

The Special Education Director security group in Special Programs can only be assigned by a system administrator at IDOE.

To add a new staff member to this role, a current director or administrator must submit an [Elevated Access Request JotForm](#).

Please note that more than one individual may be assigned to the Special Education Director security group, even if the person is not the designated director.

3. Staff Moving to a New LEA Do Not Need to Repeat Schoology Training

Staff members who have previously completed required Schoology trainings and are transitioning to a new LEA do not need to repeat the training.

To enable Special Programs access, these staff members only need to have the Student Support Plan staff assignment added in the LINK Portal. This assignment can be added at:

- The school level
- The LEA level
- The network level

Higher levels provide broader visibility across the district. The Teacher assignment may be used at the school level to limit access to a single building.

4. Student Profile Access Requires Security Group Assignments

Access to Student Profiles is granted only through security group assignments. New staff members must have appropriate security groups assigned by the LEA Security Manager before beginning work with students.

Live Training Sessions Overview

The PowerSchool Training Team provides dedicated, live sessions on Microsoft Teams that offer hands-on, collaborative guidance to help users of all experience levels confidently learn and navigate Special Programs, with a focus on system functionality.

Power School Office Hours are Mondays and Wednesdays 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. ET. Join the Office Hours [here](#) for Q&A and guidance related to training, help understanding system functionality and applying training concepts, and assistance with report writing.

Technical Assistance and Professional Development

Final 2025-2026 School Year Special Education Director Outreach Opportunities

Join us for the final school year 2025-2026 Director's Outreach opportunities in May. In these sessions, we will learn more about graduation and exiting special education services, and also pending Medicaid updates.

- The [Directors Symposium](#) is held monthly to provide relevant policy and resource updates that support directors in strengthening compliance in their corporation's reporting.
- [Lead and Listen](#) sessions enable IDOE to address [submitted follow-up questions](#) regarding the Directors Symposium.
- [New Director Community Chats](#) are also held monthly for special education directors and administrators, new to their positions within the last three years, to ask questions and gain additional information following the Directors Symposium.

Specific information, including dates, times, and registration information, can be found [here](#). Please direct any questions about director outreach opportunities to spedassistance@doe.in.gov.

Director Outreach Survey Now Available

IDOE's Office of Special Education invites all special education directors to complete the [2025-2026 Director Outreach Survey](#) to help shape future updates, resources, and technical assistance for the field. By providing input on your experience with Director Outreach sessions, you ensure that our team can better provide targeted information and enhance support across all LEAs. This voluntary, confidential survey takes approximately five minutes to complete and will be used to continue to make improvements to the way we deliver updates to you.

2026 Special Education Teacher Workshop Series

IDOE's Office of Special Education, Technical Assistance (TA) Team is providing one more free webinar opportunity for new special education teachers, or those looking for a refresher, for the 2025-2026 school year. This live webinar will be held on Tuesday, May 12, from noon to 1 p.m. ET in the Indiana Learning Lab, and will focus on preparing for next year. Can't make the live session? All webinars will be recorded and uploaded to the Learning Lab to watch at your convenience. To watch previously recorded sessions or register to attend this session live, visit the Learning Lab [here](#). Contact IDOE's [Office of Special Education](#) with any questions.

New Specially Designed Instruction Resources from the Progress Center

Progress Center has developed a [new collection of tip sheets](#) that provide key considerations, guiding questions, and evidence-based examples of specially designed instruction content adaptations, delivery adaptations, and methodology adaptations. Click [here](#) to access these new resources.

Special Education Licensure, Recruitment, and Recognition

Participants Needed for Indiana's K-12 Mathematics Standards and Content Connector Review Committees

IDOE's Office of Curriculum and Instruction is recruiting educators and other stakeholders to join committees that will review the Indiana Academic Standards and Content Connectors for K-12 mathematics. Complete and submit [this form](#) by 11:45 p.m. ET on Friday, May 1, for consideration. IDOE will review all submissions and select participants based on many criteria (e.g., teaching experience, current role, student populations served) to help maximize representativeness of each committee. Contact IDOE's [Office of Curriculum and Instruction](#) with any questions.

Indiana Special Education Assisted Licensure (I-SEAL)

Indiana Special Education Assisted Licensure (I-SEAL) provides Indiana's current and future special educators with access to convenient, accelerated options and key financial support. Eligible individuals can learn more and apply for assistance by visiting IndianaSEAL.org.

Keys to Literacy No Cost Professional Development for Early Literacy Endorsement

IDOE's Early Literacy Endorsement Professional Development is available to current eligible Indiana educators who hold a valid professional educator license and teach in a content area that involves literacy instruction for PK-5 students. Eligible licensed Indiana educators may participate, at no cost, in Keys to Literacy. Those who are eligible, may register [here](#) by Friday, May 1, but space is limited. Participants must complete all asynchronous course(s) by 11:59 p.m. ET on Monday, June 1. For help accessing your course, please see this [PDF](#) of directions and frequently asked questions. Contact [Keys to Literacy](#) with any questions regarding your online course. Those who do not finish by this date will not be eligible to re-register for this free course option in the future. Contact the [Literacy Center](#) with any questions.

Additional Updates, Resources, and Opportunities

2026 Summer Institute for Educational Interpreters with the PASS Project

Registration is now open for the 2026 Summer Institute for Educational Interpreters, taking place on Tuesday, July 21, and Wednesday, July 22!

This two-day training supports K-12 educational interpreters in strengthening professional role clarity, preparation and collaboration strategies, and student-centered decision-making. Day one focuses on clarifying the interpreter's role and understanding how preparation directly supports meaningful access for students. Day two builds on that foundation by focusing on student experience in the classroom, strengthening real-time decision-making, and improving collaboration with school teams. The training includes short presentations, guided reflection, group discussion, and practical application activities. Participants will leave this training with ideas and tools they can use right away. To learn more and register visit the PASS Project's website [here](#).

Indiana School for the Blind and Visually Impaired Family Picnic and Fun Day

Join the Indiana School for the Blind and Visually Impaired (ISBVI) on campus on Saturday, May 16, from 10 a.m. to noon ET. All Indiana families of students who are blind or have low vision, along with the professionals who support them, are invited to enjoy food, lawn games, fun activities, and opportunities to connect with other families and staff. Come celebrate the end of the school year and the successful first year of ISBVI's Parent and Community Engagement Program. All campus and outreach families and professionals are welcome. Register [here](#).

HANDS Summer Intensive Training

Join the HANDS in Autism® Five-Day Summer Intensive Training — an immersive, evidence-based learning experience designed for educators, support staff, administrators, and community providers working with individuals with autism and related developmental needs! Over one full week, you'll:

- Dive into HANDS' proven model rooted in behavioral and educational strategies
- Practice hands-on skills with coaching and feedback
- Learn proactive supports, effective accommodations, assessment techniques, and more
- Connect with peers and experienced trainers to build confidence and real-world strategies

Flexible options are available. You can attend for one full week or one afternoon a week for six weeks. Additionally, there are options to attend online or onsite in Bloomington. Earn 42 hours toward professional development.

If you register by Sunday, May 31, you can receive a \$250 discount. Email hands@iu.edu for more information or visit the website [here](#).

Sharing: Sign up for this OSE Newsletter

This is the IDOE Office of Special Education (OSE) monthly newsletter intended for school, district, co-op, and interlocal staff whose role necessitates receiving detailed information about Indiana special education monitoring, finance, data, etc. The OSE Newsletter is distributed on the fourth Monday of each month except for July. If you know someone interested in newly subscribing to the OSE Newsletter mailing list, please direct them [here](#). Previous newsletters can be found [here](#) and in [Moodle](#). If you have any questions, please reach out to spedassistance@doe.in.gov.

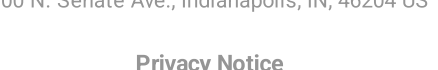


Department News

4/14/2026 Free Summer Reading and Math Support Continues for Thousands of Indiana Students

3/4/2026 Indiana Approves Student-Centered K-12 Accountability Model with Unanimous Support

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