



Indiana Department of Education

Dr. Katie Jenner, Secretary of Education

To: Zac Jackson, State Budget Director
From: Dr. Katie Jenner, Indiana Secretary of Education
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Subject: Agency Overview - Budget Transmittal Memorandum

INTRODUCTION

At the Indiana Department of Education (IDOE), our goal is to meet every child where they are and ensure they have access to the quality education they need to enjoy lifelong success. This includes all of the approximately 1.12 million Hoosier students attending more than 2,200 schools. Indiana's educators are working hard to help our students recover from the academic impact of the pandemic, while simultaneously the global economy continues to change and technology continues to advance. That's why our collective work to prepare students for life beyond high school is now more important than ever.

In order for every Hoosier student to reach their potential, we must work together to prioritize:

- Knowledge and skill development across all grade levels, and
- Access to college and career pathways and opportunities in high school.

By supporting students in finding their purpose, knowing their value, and understanding the possibilities for their life's path, we can ensure all students emerge prepared for a dynamic future, whether they choose employment, enrollment, or enlistment leading to service.

IDOE TEAM'S GUIDING PRINCIPLES

Upon our team's appointment at the beginning of 2021, we undertook a stakeholder engagement process to ensure our focus and priorities are aligned with what our students, educators, and communities need most. As a result, our team quickly identified the following non-negotiable principles that guide all of our work.

- **Student-Centered:** To have the most positive impact on student learning, we will keep students top of mind and make every decision based on the needs of individual learners.
- **Inclusive and Collaborative:** We are committed to activating communities by engaging partners throughout the state.
- **Champions of Educators:** Our educators are critical partners in our students' education journeys, and we will prioritize supporting them and elevating our profession.
- **Data- and Results-Driven:** We will rely on data and results to shape innovative solutions, guide decision-making, drive student learning, and measure the impact of public policy.
- **Transparent and Trustworthy:** We will make accurate data readily available to ensure public understanding.
- **Future-Focused:** Since our rapidly changing economy will require continuous education for a growing number of Hoosiers, we will encourage increased innovation within our education to workforce continuum to meet the needs of an uncertain future economy.



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THREE PILLARS AND STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

IDOE's important work requires everyone working together, at the state, community, school, and family level. As we have worked collaboratively toward solutions, we have heard a number of topical themes on repeat, which focus our collective work into three pillars and are reflected in our 2024-2025 budget requests. To support these pillars, through the stakeholder engagement process, the following strategic priorities have been identified:

Pillar 1 - Student Learning and Opportunity: *Deliver Quality, Purposeful Educational Opportunities for Each Student*

- Expand and support quality, affordable, and accessible learning opportunities, including early learning options
- Implement literacy and STEM initiatives to strengthen the capacity to deliver the educational fundamentals to every child by grade 10 (age 16) and improve student outcomes
- Support schools and communities as they strengthen, expand, & create connections to college and career pathways and opportunities leading to employment, enrollment, or enlistment leading to service
- Expand access to, training for, and use of technology options that support expanded contexts for learning
- Create capacity and flexibility to drive effective learning-focused innovation in all aspects of K-12 education, which includes additional opportunities for students to engage in project-, work- and service-based learning
- Launch the Indiana Graduates Prepared to Succeed (Indiana GPS) dashboard, which re-envision how educational progress is measured and tailored to individual students

Pillar 2 - Educator Talent, Quality and Value: *Elevate and Support Indiana's Educators*

- Forge strategic partnerships to elevate the mission and value of Indiana's K-12 educators by creating recognition opportunities to celebrate the impact of educators
- Double down on local strategies, such as "Grow Your Own" programs, to expand the pipeline of talented teachers to serve in the classroom and in leadership roles, including racially and ethnically diverse candidates and candidates for high-need subject areas
- Improve access to effective professional and leadership development, and create networks and other capacity for sharing information, practices, and ideas with/among educators through solutions such as the Indiana Learning Lab
- Improve guidance, support, and accessible data, for those recruiting, educating, and mentoring rising educators, including developing a real-time supply and demand marketplace for the educator pipeline



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Pillar 3 - System-Alignment and Capacity: *Increase Partnerships and Deliver Aligned, Effective, and Efficient Support*

- Reduce unnecessary bureaucracy and barriers to innovation, while also streamlining data reporting processes for schools
- Collaborate with educators and other stakeholders to align available state data and fiscal resources to ensure the greatest possible return on investment and impact for student learning
- Increase support for local capacity-building to improve results, including incentivizing communities to promote collaboration amongst K-12 schools, community organizations, higher education, and workforce partners
- Assist local educators in solution-finding for real-time issues (e.g., accelerated learning, hybrid instruction, transitions to post-K-12 activity)
- Partner with stakeholders to ensure Indiana's strategic vision for education is supported and implemented

RECENTLY DEPLOYED TACTICS ALIGNED TO PILLARS

IDOE has been hard at work deploying tactical solutions to address our strategic priorities. While the following list is not exhaustive, it provides a thorough sampling of efforts underway.

1. **Support for Literacy** - IDOE partnered with Lilly Endowment to announce the state's largest-ever financial investment in literacy with a bold goal of 95% of Indiana's third graders passing IREAD-3 by 2027. This combined investment from the state and Lilly Endowment of up to \$111 million will support early literacy development using proven teaching strategies aligned with the science of reading. Contingent upon IDOE securing an additional \$10 million in matching funds, Lilly Endowment has approved a grant of up to \$60 million to deploy instructional coaches throughout Indiana, offer stipends to teachers who participate in professional development focused on the science of reading, provide targeted support for students who need the most help improving their reading skills, and create a literacy center focused on science of reading strategies. Lilly Endowment's grant, in addition to IDOE's investment of approximately \$26 million in Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) II funds, aims to provide science of reading-focused instructional support for educators in partnership with the University of Indianapolis' Center of Excellence in Leadership of Learning (CELL) and the Hunt Institute. Finally, Lilly Endowment will make available up to \$25 million to support Indiana's colleges and universities to incorporate or enhance science of reading methods into their undergraduate elementary teacher preparation programs.
2. **IREAD-3 for 2nd Graders** - IDOE offered the opportunity for schools to offer the IREAD-3 assessment to 2nd grade students in the spring of 2022. Nearly 400 schools took advantage of this opportunity which means those schools have data telling them which students are on track to pass the IREAD-3 in 3rd grade and which students need additional support.



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3. **High-Dosage Tutoring** - In partnership with The Mind Trust, IDOE launched Indiana Learns, a statewide grant program that will provide qualifying families with up to \$1,000 to spend on math and English/language arts high-dosage tutoring and approved out-of-school academic programs for their students. The initiative's goal is to increase access to effective, out-of-school academic support to help students recover from learning disruptions caused by the pandemic.
4. **Student Learning Recovery Grants** - IDOE awarded more than \$157 million in competitive, discretionary grants to community and school partnerships statewide to support accelerated learning plans across all grades. Grants focused on literacy, math, and college and career readiness.
5. **COVID-19 Relief School Spending Dashboard** - IDOE was one of the first states to release an online dashboard that provides the public with details regarding local school districts' spending of COVID-19 federal relief funds. Statewide, \$2.8 billion in federal funding has been allocated to local school districts.
6. **Indiana Graduates Prepared to Succeed (GPS)** - In partnership with stakeholders across the state, IDOE is re-envisioning how we strategically measure and transparently display school performance. Indiana GPS will empower Indiana's families, educators, school administrators, and community leaders with a learner-centered, future-focused dashboard that displays how our students are building knowledge and skills—in all grades and all schools.
7. **STEM Coaching** - IDOE launched a partnership with 4th through 8th grade STEM teachers in 12 schools across the state. Participating teachers are receiving instructional coaching support in inquiry- and problem-based learning, as well as engineering design and modeling in mathematics in science.
8. **STEM Acceleration Grants** - IDOE awarded 48 school districts and charter schools across the state with more than \$2.6 million in STEM Acceleration Grant funding. Schools will deploy the dollars during the upcoming school year to accelerate students' learning across science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) disciplines.
9. **STEM-Certified Schools** - More than 100 Indiana schools have earned this designation for exemplifying a highly innovative approach to STEM education and in recognition of the schools' commitment to teaching STEM disciplines beyond the classroom.
10. **Career Pathways** - IDOE awarded 97 school and community partners throughout all of Indiana's 92 counties with more than \$57 million in Explore, Engage, and Experience (3E) grant funding. The grant will aid Indiana's schools and local partners as they work to strengthen, expand, and create effective career pathways throughout students' K-12 learning.



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11. **Urban College Acceleration Network** - IDOE launched the state's Urban College Acceleration Network (UCAN), a new partnership between urban Indiana schools with the mission of increasing students' access to postsecondary courses through the Early College High School Program. UCAN connects established urban Early College High Schools to serve as mentors to urban schools that are seeking to become Early College High Schools.. Through UCAN, partner schools will have access to coaching and support for Early College coursework, along with educator professional development at no cost.
12. **Skill Development** - IDOE awarded 58 school partners across 40 counties with \$10 million in Employability Skills Innovation and Implementation Grant funding. The grant will help students develop in-demand employability skills that prepare them to meet the ever-changing needs of today's workforce.
13. **Crossing the Finish Line** - IDOE, in partnership with the Commission for Higher Education, the Governor's Workforce Cabinet, Ivy Tech Community College, and Vincennes University, offered Indiana high school students the opportunity to accelerate the completion of a high-quality credential, including the Indiana College Core, an associate degree, or a career and technical education (CTE) certificate for free. In its second year, the Crossing the Finish Line initiative helped more than 3,300 Indiana students at more than 335 high schools and career centers save the equivalent of more than \$2.5 million while earning high-value credentials.
14. **Educator Support** - IDOE launched a first-of-its-kind partnership with Get Your Teach On to provide Indiana educators and administrators with free access to conferences, workshops, and training sessions developed to ignite their passion for teaching and promote positive educational outcomes for students.
15. **Real-Time Professional Development for Educators** - The Indiana Learning Lab is a one-stop-shop for instructional resources, professional development, and other best practices to support our educators. Lab membership has grown rapidly to more than 30,000 members.
16. **Special Education Educator Attraction, Preparation, & Support** - In partnership with the University of Indianapolis' Center of Excellence in Leadership of Learning (CELL), IDOE launched the I-SEAL initiative to streamline the required coursework for teachers to earn full special education licensure. I-SEAL also provides financial assistance and scholarships to educators while they complete these requirements. Since launching in November 2021, more than 670 people have enrolled in special education teacher prep programs with the help of I-SEAL.
17. **Educator Pipeline** - IDOE launched the Attract, Prepare, Retain (APR) Grant, which is available for Indiana's schools and community partners to support local initiatives to attract and retain educators in school buildings across the state.



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18. **English Learner Educator Attraction, Preparation, & Support** - In November of 2022, IDOE launched the Indiana Teachers of English Learners Licensure (I-TELL) initiative in partnership with CELL to strengthen Indiana's English learner teacher pipeline by helping fund coursework leading to full licensure. I-TELL will fund tuition, books and material fees for current educators and bachelor's degree holders to complete coursework leading to English as a New Language (ENL) licensure. It will also provide financial support to people who choose to transition into a new career in teaching and want to be a part of serving Indiana's more than 77,500 English learner students.
19. **Elevating the Educator Profession** - The "Teachers Who Shaped Us" video series launched in 2021 with the goal is to celebrate Indiana's teachers, shine a spotlight on the positive impact they make on students' lives and on our state, and continue to elevate our educator profession.
20. **Educator Supply & Demand Marketplace** - IDOE launched the first phase of a new statewide supply and demand educator marketplace, which will provide new, transparent data to schools and the state to strengthen and support Indiana's educator pipeline.

BUDGET REQUESTS

Following the December 15, 2022, revenue forecast, we look forward to working with you to determine how to appropriately adjust the K-12 funding formula. IDOE also respectfully submits the below requests, which target very specific needs to support early learning and foundational literacy for all students, as well as our growing needs in terms of serving special education and English learner student populations.

1. Increase K-12 funding formula - awaiting 12/15/22 revenue forecast
2. Early Learning - \$1,045,702
3. Incentives for reading achievement - \$20,000,000 (to sunset after Spring 2027)
4. Matching funds for Lilly Endowment literacy work - \$10,000,000 (one-time match)
5. Crossing the Finish Line - \$5,000,000
6. Special Education Excess Costs - \$10,000,000 (*NOTE: This line item is separate from Special Education grants within the K-12 funding formula.*)
7. Indiana English Support Program (Non-English Speaking Program) - \$45,000,000

IDOE is committed to partnering with Indiana's schools and educators to support our students in their journeys to success. The Department is well-positioned to accelerate the momentum built during the first two years of this administration, and we look forward to the opportunity to share additional details regarding each of our requests and the important role each item plays in securing our state's future. By capitalizing on the alignment amongst IDOE, other state agency partners, lawmakers, and external stakeholders, we have an opportunity to positively impact the trajectory of the lives of countless Indiana students. Thank you for your consideration and support.