

Helping More Students Gain Foundational Reading Skills

December 5, 2023

 @EducateIN

DOING WHAT IS **BEST** FOR OUR CHILDREN



**“ILLITERACY IS ONE OF THE *MOST SOLVABLE*
ISSUES OF OUR TIME.**

WE HAVE THE RESEARCH.

WE HAVE THE PRACTICE.

WE HAVE TO DO WHAT’S BEST FOR OUR CHILDREN.”

– Dr. Kymyona Burk,
Foundation for Excellence in Education

TODAY'S AGENDA

1

Defining Key Terms

2

Level-Set: Literacy Data

3

Third Grade Retention: Current Landscape

4

Proactively Targeting K-2



Defining Key Terms

INDIANA'S IREAD-3 ASSESSMENT



IREAD-3 is an assessment developed in accordance with state legislation that measures **foundational reading skills** through grade three.

A third-party vendor recently verified IREAD-3 is **well-aligned** with science of reading.

Who Should Participate...

- **Grade two students** whose school *opted in* to administer testing;
- **Grade three students** who did not pass or did not participate in grade two; and
- **Grade four and five students** who have not passed and who have not received a Good Cause Exemption (GCE).



WHAT IS A GOOD CAUSE EXEMPTION?

A **Good Cause Exemption (GCE)** exempts eligible third grade students from additional IREAD-3 testing requirements after receiving “Did Not Pass” on the assessment.

Students who may qualify for a GCE include:

- Students with an Individualized Education Program (IEP);
- Identified English learners (ELs); and
- Students who have been retained twice.

The screenshot shows the title page and a table from the Indiana Department of Education's document. The title is "PROCESS & CONSIDERATIONS FOR ISSUING A GOOD CAUSE EXEMPTION". Below the title, there is introductory text stating that 85% of grade three students attain reading proficiency by 2027 and that GCEs exempt students from additional IREAD-3 testing requirements. The document is organized into three main sections: I. INITIAL STEPS, II. MAKING A GCE DETERMINATION, and III. NEXT STEPS FOR STUDENT SUPPORT. A table is provided under section I, detailing the actions and considerations for issuing a GCE.

I. INITIAL STEPS		II. MAKING A GCE DETERMINATION	III. NEXT STEPS FOR STUDENT SUPPORT
ACTION		CONSIDERATIONS	
1.	Receive IREAD-3 results and identify students who Did Not Pass and may qualify for a GCE.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Students who may qualify for a GCE include:<ul style="list-style-type: none">Students with an Individualized Education Program (IEP);Identified English learners (ELs); andStudents who have been retained twice.The parent letter template may be modified to support conversations with families about results, retest opportunities, and exemptions.	
2.	Parents are notified that their student Did Not Pass and is not exhibiting reading skills required at the grade three level.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Communication must occur in a language parents understand.Communication should occur in a timely manner.Schools should retain local documentation.	

www.in.gov/idoe/

CONSIDERING **GOOD CAUSE EXEMPTIONS**

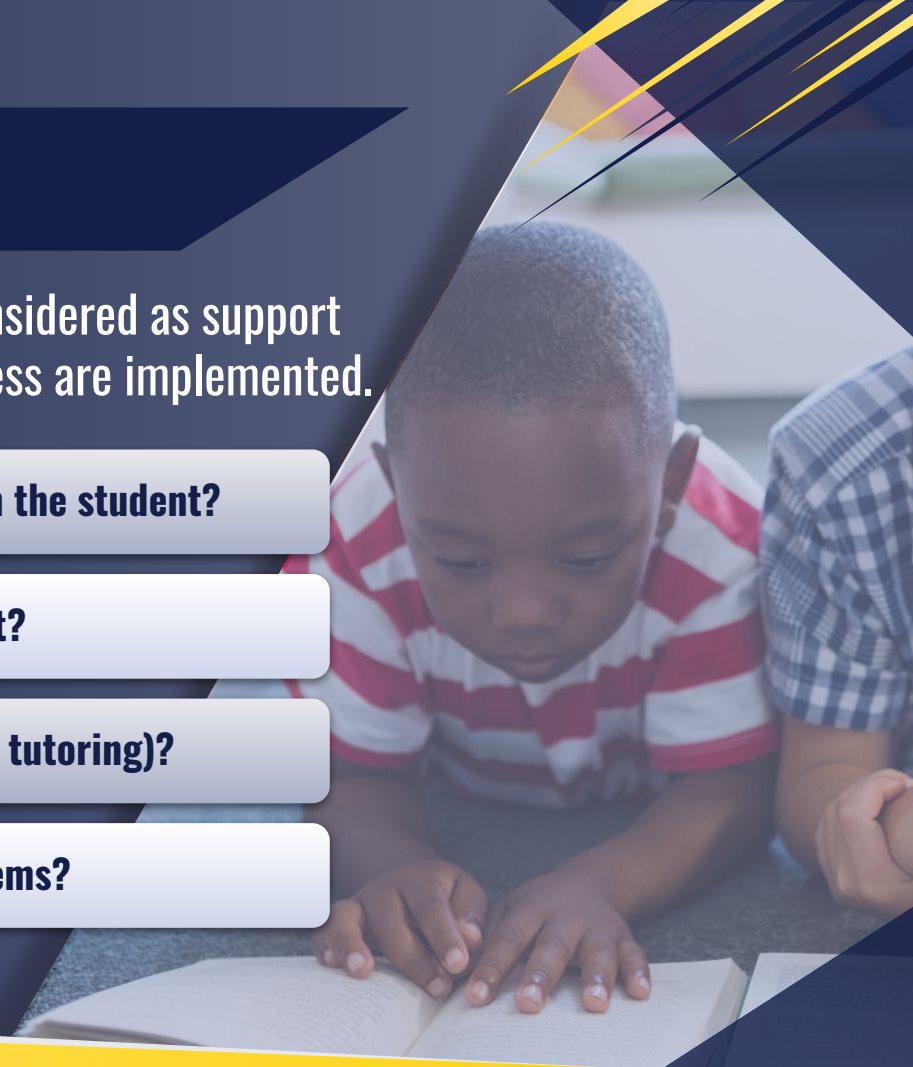
The decision to grant a GCE should be carefully considered as support and remediation to ensure long-term reading success are implemented.

What reading interventions were implemented so far with the student?

What trends do progress monitoring show for the student?

What other supports does the student receive (e.g., Title, tutoring)?

Does the school implement research-based support systems?



**Student Passes
IREAD-3**

Student Does Not Pass IREAD-3

Student Receives Targeted
Reading Interventions

Student Has Disability & Is
Eligible for a GCE

Student is an English Learner &
Is Eligible for a GCE

Student Passes
IREAD-3 Summer
Retest

Student Does Not
Pass IREAD-3
Summer Retest

Student May
Repeat 3rd Grade
and Retest Twice

Students Retained
Twice Are Eligible
for a GCE

Student Promoted to Grade 4

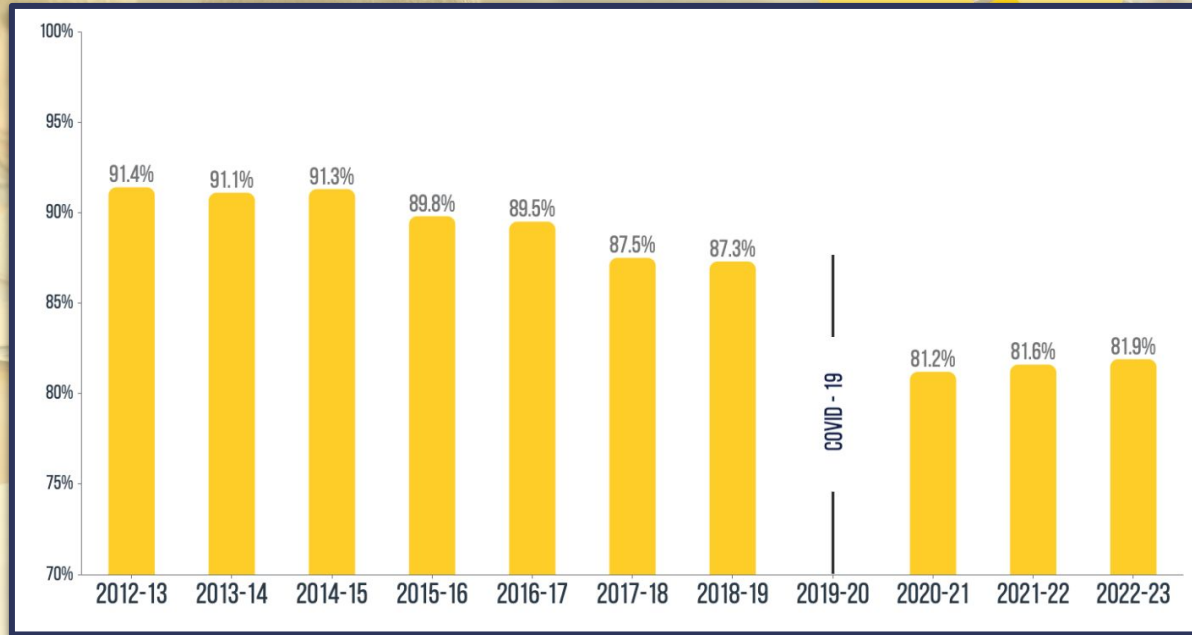
Student Promoted to Grade 4 with Targeted Reading Interventions & Supports

Level-Set: Literacy Data

WHY LITERACY IS A **PRIORITY**

Indiana's *literacy rates* have been dropping for a **decade**...well before the COVID-19 pandemic.

IREAD-3 passage rates **peaked at 91%** in the 2012-2013 school year.



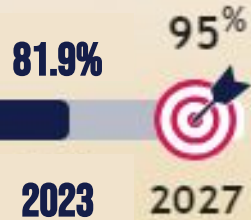
LITERACY - CURRENT DATA

- Students who pass IREAD-3 by third grade are roughly **35% more likely** to graduate.
- Currently, **nearly one in five** Indiana third grade students is not proficient in key literacy skills.
 - Proficiency rates for students **increased minimally** (0.3 percentage points) in 2023.
- **2022 NAEP Results for Reading**
 - **33%** of Indiana fourth graders scored at or above proficiency
 - **31%** of eighth graders scored at or above proficiency
- ***Achievement gaps persist*** for our most at-risk students.

INDIANA'S **THIRD GRADE LITERACY** GOAL

3rd Grade Literacy

Percentage of grade 3 students showing proficiency on IREAD-3.

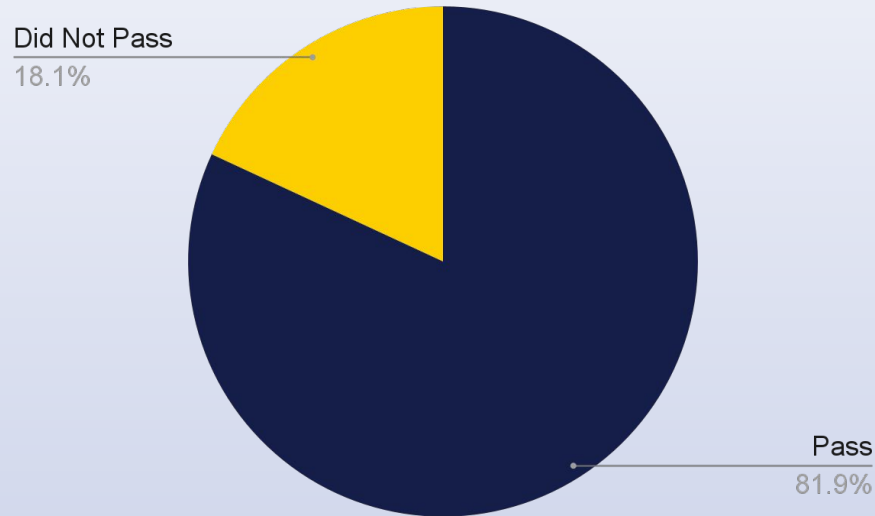


Third Grade Retention: Current Landscape

STATEWIDE 2023 IREAD-3 DATA



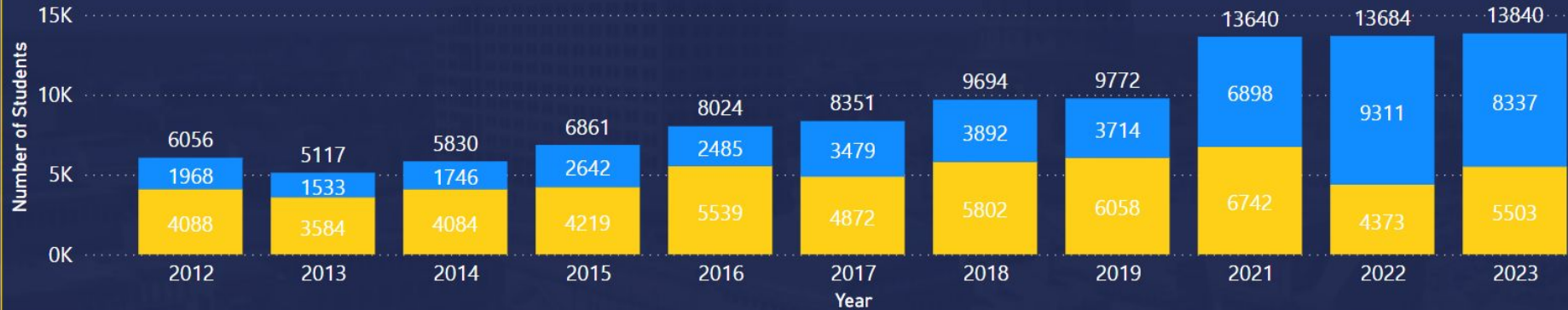
2023 Statewide Pass Data



DID NOT PASS IREAD-3: GCE OR NOT

Student Good Cause Exemption Amounts

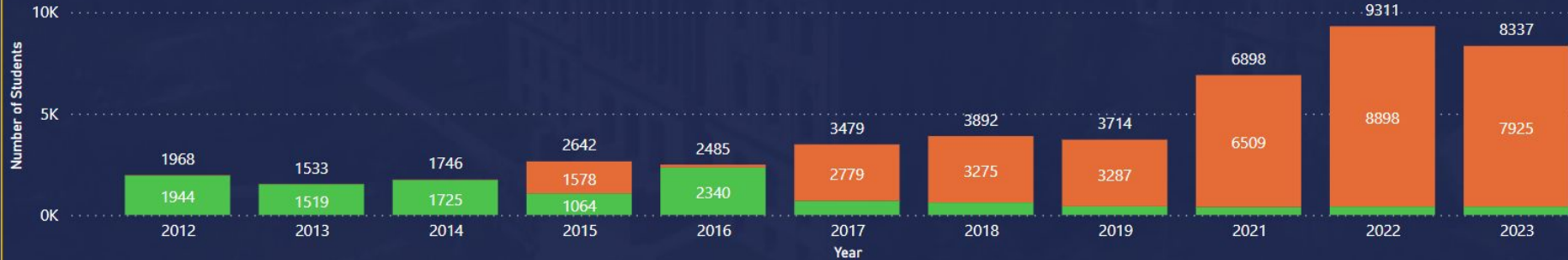
Exemption Status ● Exemption ● None



NO-GCE: RETAINED OR MOVED ONTO 4TH GRADE

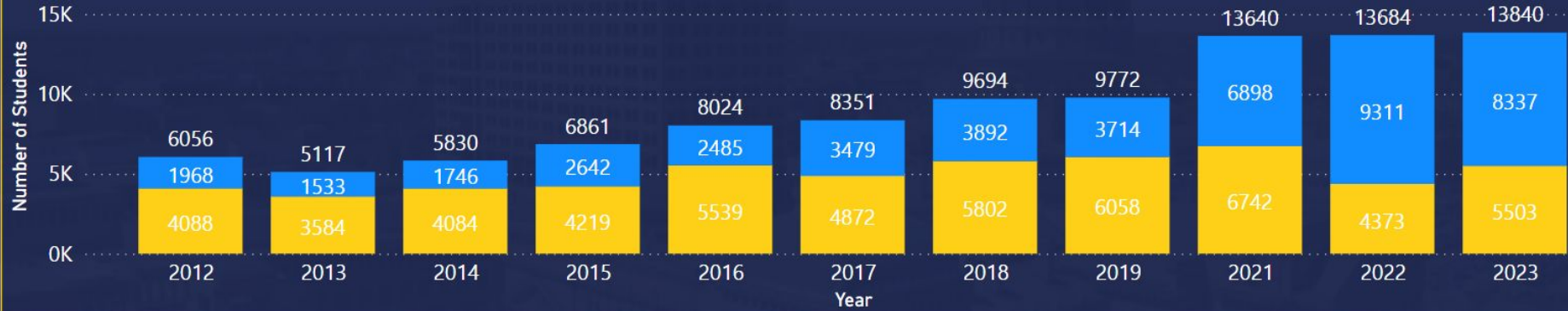
Next Year Grade Level for Non-Exempt Students

Grade Level ● 03 ● 04



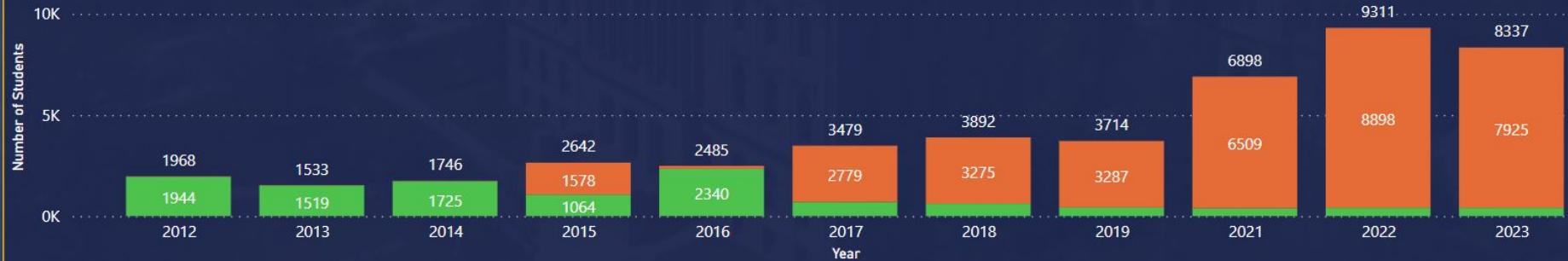
Student Good Cause Exemption Amounts

Exemption Status ● Exemption ● None



Next Year Grade Level for Non-Exempt Students

Grade Level ● 03 ● 04



KEY TAKEAWAYS

Indiana's literacy rates have been **dropping for a decade**, well before the COVID-19 pandemic.

While third grade enrollment has declined since 2012, the number of students who do not pass IREAD-3 has **more than doubled** since 2012.



KEY TAKEAWAYS CONTINUED



Of the approximately 14,000 students who did not pass IREAD-3 in 2023, **over 5,500 received a GCE.**

- A GCE **exempts eligible third grade students** from additional IREAD-3 testing after receiving “Did Not Pass” on the assessment. Without future IREAD-3 data for these students, it is unclear at the state-level if they ever learn to read.

Reminder: Students who may qualify for a GCE include:

- Students with an Individualized Education Program (IEP);
- Identified English learners (ELs); and
- Students who have been retained twice.

KEY TAKEAWAYS CONTINUED

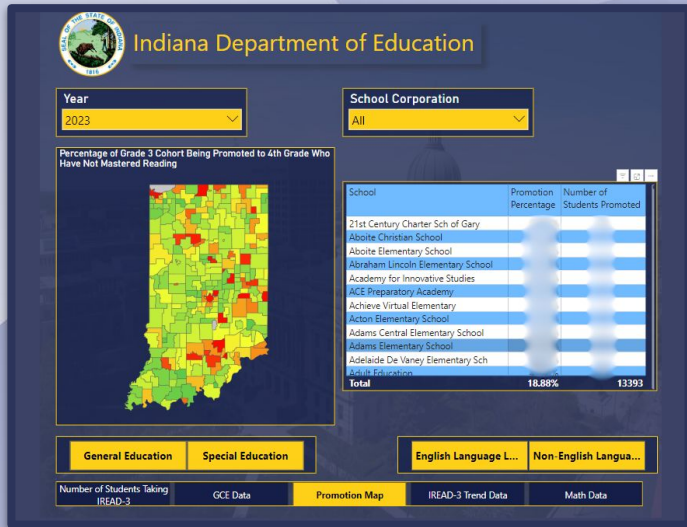
Data show that **over 96 percent** of students who did not pass IREAD-3 were advanced to fourth grade.

As reading scores have **decreased**, retention rates have also **decreased**, causing thousands of students to enter fourth grade unable to read.

KEY TAKEAWAYS CONTINUED

- Students who do not achieve proficiency on IREAD-3 experience **ongoing struggles** with text complexity, engagement with research components, and writing skills.
- Data indicate that students receiving GCEs consequently demonstrate **lower proficiency** on subsequent ILEARN assessments.
- Overall, students who do not pass IREAD-3 are at risk of **not achieving proficiency** on future assessments, including ILEARN, and are **less likely to graduate**.

NEW! DATA VISUALIZATION TOOL



PURPOSE: To better understand where students are today and provide useful information to support educators, parents and families, and community leaders in ensuring all Indiana students can read.

As this tool continues to be developed and improved, over time, it will also help to:

- quantify the number of students in each grade level who are unable to read,
- track the long-term impacts of illiteracy,
- evaluate the impact of the state's current literacy efforts, and
- inform ongoing policy decisions.

Proactively Targeting K-2

HISTORIC LITERACY INVESTMENT

Announced August 2022

\$60 million from Lilly Endowment to IDOE +

\$26 million from IDOE (ESSER II) +

Up to \$25 million from Lilly Endowment to teacher prep programs

= \$111 million combined investment



Goal: Achieve a passage rate of **95%** on IREAD-3 by 2027.

....Plus an additional \$60 million during the 2023 legislative session, increasing the state's historic literacy investment to over **\$170 MILLION!**

HOW TO BE PART OF THE SOLUTION

How this investment is being used to positively impact students:

- Schools may join the **Indiana Literacy Cadre** where educators at participating schools can receive free instructional coaching in science of reading.
- Eligible parents may access **Indiana Learns** which provides additional learning support and tutoring at no cost.



HOW TO BE PART OF THE SOLUTION CONTINUED

- Parents may join the new **Parent and Family Support Hub** on the [Indiana Learning Lab](#), providing free, 24/7 access to resources to support student learning.
- Educators may complete IDOE's **science of reading modules**, developed in partnership with Marian University, through the Indiana Learning Lab. Eligible teachers can also earn a \$1,200 stipend by completing the modules.



HOW TO BE PART OF THE **SOLUTION** CONTINUED

- Schools may administer **IREAD-3 at Grade 2** to gain access to an early “On Track indicator” for parents/families and teachers to determine if students will master foundational reading skills by the end of grade three.
- Schools may receive targeted support through a **Literacy Support Plan**, specifically designed for Indiana schools falling below 70% IREAD-3 passage.



HOW TO BE PART OF THE **SOLUTION** CONTINUED

- Teachers may earn incentives for improving IREAD-3 scores through Indiana's **Literacy Achievement Grants** (awards to be announced in December).

Schools continue to utilize **IDOE's Science of Reading Grant** funding to support science of reading implementation through instructional coaching, curriculum, and professional development.



HOW TO BE PART OF THE **SOLUTION** CONTINUED

Higher Education Educator Preparation Programs

- All higher education educator preparation programs are required to **embed science of reading into their curriculum.**
- All EPPs must also prepare future educators to obtain a **literacy endorsement** (IC 20-28-5-19.7).
- Indiana educators *first licensed after June 30, 2025*, in the areas of early childhood, elementary generalist, and special education are **required** to obtain the new literacy endorsement.

HOW TO BE PART OF THE **SOLUTION** CONTINUED

COMING SOON

Current teachers can pursue the science of reading-focused **literacy endorsement** at no cost!

COMING SOON

Future teachers can pursue the science of reading-focused **EPP Literacy Endorsement PD Grant**.

COMING SOON

High-quality curricular materials list aligned to science of reading.

COMING SOON

Dyslexia modules available to all educators.



THANK YOU!