

MINUTES
Indiana State Board of Education
Business Meeting

August 13, 2025
9:00 A.M. E.D.T.

Conference Room B
Indiana Government Center South
302 W. Washington Street
Indianapolis, IN 46204

<https://www.youtube.com/live/vym5eVwilXI>

Board Members Present: Dr. Katie Jenner, Chair, Ms. Katie Mote (by video), Vice Chair, Mr. William Durham Jr., Secretary, Mr. Scott Bess, Ms. Erika Dilosa (by video), Dr. Byron Ernest, Ms. Iris Hammel, Mr. Greg Gastineau, Mr. Pat Mapes, and Mr. B.J. Watts.

Board Members Absent: Ms. Kristin Rentschler

- I. **Call to Order:**
 - A. Roll Call: A quorum is present.
 - B. Pledge of Allegiance.
- II. **Approval of Agenda:** The agenda was approved by unanimous vote.
- III. **Approval of the Minutes:** The Minutes, for the July 16, 2025, meeting, were approved by unanimous vote.
 - A. July 16, 2025 - [Memo](#)
- IV. **Statement from the Chair:** Dr. Jenner discussed the beginning of the academic school year and commended the people who often do not get recognized for their work in preparation for the school year ahead. Dr. Jenner also mentioned and celebrated the state's success in improving chronic absenteeism, graduation rates, and CTE numbers. Dr. Jenner discussed two recommendations ready for public comments and suggestions: the school accountability rule and the Indiana federal flexibility waiver.
- V. **Board Member Comments and Reports:** None.
- VI. **Public Comment:** Dr. Todd Bess commented on the draft accountability rule and suggested that the board consider scaling the grade nine to eleven attendance goal to grades four through eight. Dr. Bess also suggested the board add an additional success indicator for credit recovery. Overall, Dr. Bess was complimentary of the quality and quantity of career-based learning opportunities throughout the state but suggested additional success indicators for grades four through eight. Dr. Bess also discussed how principals would like to see more emphasis on revising the point value system.

Mr. Andy Allen encouraged his Indiana Association of School Principals (IASP) colleagues to complete the feedback form to generate ideas and suggestions for the new accountability model.

Mr. Allen also discussed aligning the outcomes for middle and high schoolers to ensure that middle schoolers attaining the enrollment seals are ready for the new academic year.

Mr. Chris Walker stressed the importance of the ninth grade on-track indicator and mentioned the Cradle to Career Initiative that aims to end generational poverty in Muncie. Mr. Walker also discussed the newly launched freshman academy at Muncie Central High School. Mr. Walker requested that the board consider the completion of a freshman seminar or advisory program for ninth and tenth graders in the proposed accountability model.

VII. **Consent Agenda:** The consent agenda was approved by unanimous vote. Mr. Watts recused himself from Item E.

- A. Tri-Creek School Corporation Governing Body Change - [Memo](#)
- B. 1003 Flexibility Waiver - [Memo](#)
- C. School Security Common School Loan – [Memo](#) | [Document](#)
- D. Southern Wells Latchkey Waiver - [Memo](#)
- E. School Technology Common School Loans – [Memo](#)
- F. Transfer appeal regarding West Lafayette Community School Corporation – [Memo](#)
- G. Transfer appeal regarding Plainfield Community School Corporation – [Memo](#)

VIII. **New Business:** Lynn Schemel, IDOE, Deputy Chief Academic Officer, Anna Shults, IDOE, Chief Academic Officer, and Melanie Hazelwood, IDOE, Director of Literacy Center, presented on the 2024-2025 IREAD results.

- A. IREAD – [Presentation](#)
 - i. Anna Shults noted that the department had four new policies resulting from legislative actions taken during the past legislative session that impacted the most recent school year. These policies are outlined in the presentation linked above.
 - ii. The opportunity to opt in to IREAD is no longer an available option. All second graders across the state participate in IREAD.
 - iii. Anna Shults also noted that there is a fundamental difference between reading and ELA skills. Reading proficiency is evaluated through IREAD and measures foundational reading skills, while ELA proficiency is evaluated through ILEARN and measures reading comprehension and writing.
 - iv. Dr. Jenner mentioned that middle school ELA grades are the only academic indicator that the state has not improved on.
 - v. Anna Shults discussed how the Nation's Report Card is the only assessment that can be compared on a state-by-state level. Indiana is ranked 6th in the nation, up from 13th, in fourth grade reading and ranked 6th in the nation, up from 11th, in eighth grade reading. This is the highest Indiana has ever ranked in fourth grade reading.
 - vi. Anna Schults described how 87.3 percent of Indiana third graders are proficient in foundational reading skills. Statewide proficiency rates increased nearly five percentage points, the largest single-year increase since the assessment began in 2013.
 - vii. Literacy rates have increased for four consecutive years across the state, rebounding from the pandemic which exacerbated the literary crisis. Now, literacy rates have returned to pre-pandemic levels.

- viii. Dr. Jenner noted that the department will publicly share the heat map of the literacy gains across the state following Count Day on October 1st.
 - ix. Lynn Schemel dissected the overall IREAD results by discussing each specific student group population.
 - 1. This is the first time in the state that literacy rates have improved for all student population groups in the ethnicity category.
 - 2. Literacy rates for students in special education have increased for four consecutive years.
 - 3. For English learners, the literacy rate increased in 2025 by 7.2 percentage points.
 - 4. For students receiving free and reduced meals, the literacy rate increased by 6.6 percentage points in 2025.
 - x. Dr. Jenner noted that this was the first time that the literacy rates have improved across each metric and student group population.
 - xi. On a larger scale, Anna Shults described that the number of new readers in the state of Indiana could fill 298 classrooms, assuming each classroom seats approximately 20 students.
 - xii. Anna Shults also discussed how 456 schools across the state of Indiana had an IREAD passage rate of 95 percent or higher, an increase of 179 schools from last year.
 - xiii. Anna Shults described how the department had historic literacy investment with generous donations from Lilly Endowment and from Esser II.
 - xiv. Dr. Jenner described how automatically enrolling second graders into IREAD has opened the door for parents and educators to have honest and transparent conversations about the reading ability of their students.
 - xv. Anna Shults discussed how 68 percent of second grade students who participated in IREAD in 2025 passed or are on-track to pass by the end of third grade.
 - xvi. Mr. Watts asked what metric is used to determine if a student is “on-track” to pass, and Lynn Schemel described how the department engaged in a study to determine what percentage would be the cut score for “on-track” students.
 - xvii. Melanie Hazelwood discussed the Indiana Literacy Cadre, piloted in 2022. The Literacy Cadre saw a seven percent point increase from 2024 to 2025 in their IREAD scores.
 - xviii. Melanie Hazelwood explained how the overall growth for schools participating in the Literacy Cadre is nearly double that of schools that did not participate.
 - xix. Melanie Hazelwood described several ongoing supports the Literacy Cadre offers such as a universal screener, assessment and instructional framework updates, teacher training, and the Indiana Learning Lab.
- B. Evansville Vanderberg School Corporation (EVSC) – [Presentation](#)
- i. India Williams, the Literacy Cadre coach at Fairline Elementary School, discussed how EVSC saw a ten percent increase in IREAD pass rates for the 2024-2025 school year.
 - ii. India Williams described EVSC’s strategies to improve literacy rates and explained how EVSC identified its student’s needs within word recognition and language comprehension and applied their findings to instructional routines.
 - iii. Mr. Watts encouraged everyone to celebrate this achievement and congratulated EVSC on their accomplishment.
- C. Central Catholic School – [Presentation](#)

- i. Tami Clouse, principal at Central Catholic School, discussed her school's approach to improving literacy rates by partnering with the University of Indianapolis and a Literacy Cadre coach.
 - ii. Tami Clouse described how data drove and refined their school's approach. Specifically, the WEDA screener allowed Central Catholic School to gain a baseline of their student's reading capabilities.
 - iii. Tami Clouse also explained how her school is already beginning reading intervention groups and is maintaining strong school and home communication.
 - iv. Dr. Jenner noted the importance of parent and family involvement and commended Central Catholic School for their accomplishment and literacy rate jump.
- D. Elkhart Community Schools – [Presentation](#)
 - i. Dr. Larry Huff, superintendent for Elkhart Community Schools, described how Elkhart Community Schools increased their IREAD scores by 16.2 percent for the entire corporation.
 - ii. Dr. Larry Huff also mentioned the importance of the support of parents and families.
 - iii. Denise Demiter, literacy coach for Elkhart Community Schools, discussed the success of their tier 2 interventions, UFLI and Geodes.
- E. Success Academy at Boys & Girls Club – [Presentation](#)
 - i. The Success Academy at Boys & Girls Club saw a 36.7 percentage point increase in their IREAD scores.
 - ii. Jeremy Lugbill, CEO for the Career Academy Network of Public Schools, discussed the career-connected model of the Success Academy at Boys & Girls Club.
 - iii. Becky Bartlett, director of curriculum, described the positive impact of the Literacy Cadre and explained how layers of support for students are instrumental for their success.
- F. Closing Comments
 - i. Mr. Mapes described how Hamilton Southeastern Schools tested around 1,500 third graders and obtained a 96 percent passage rate. Ten of the district's thirteen elementary schools are at or above a 95 percent passing rate. The district's special education students are up fourteen points, and 81 percent of the district's second graders passed IREAD-3. Mr. Mapes discussed how these achievements have empowered teachers as leaders both inside and outside of the classroom. Mr. Mapes also looked ahead to the next school year and challenged schools to improve once again.
 - ii. Dr. Jenner took a few minutes to recognize groups of people for their personal contributions to the statewide increase in IREAD results.
 - iii. Ms. Hammel also recognized several individuals for their impact and support.
 - iv. Mr. Durham described the importance of community efforts and how success can happen when people come together to support a common goal. Mr. Durham also recognized parents for ensuring that their students are in the classroom and for providing extra support at home.

IX. **Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned by unanimous vote.