

MINUTES
Indiana State Board of Education
Business Meeting

May 13, 2026
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/watch?v=ARGsuKGVLes>

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

Board Members Absent: None.

- 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 March 4, 2026, meeting, were approved by unanimous vote.
 - A. March 4, 2026 - [Memo](#)
- IV. **Statement from the Chair:** Dr. Jenner began her statement by announcing the continuation of the five-week Summer Learning Labs statewide. Nearly 12,000 Hoosier students will receive support this summer at no cost to their families. For the second consecutive year, students who attended the Summer Learning Labs in 2025 achieved double-digit percentage point proficiency gains in both reading and math. Dr. Jenner highlighted and thanked key partners, including the Boys & Girls Clubs of Northern Indiana, The Mind Trust, Creating Avenues for Student Transformation (CAST), and the Wabash County YMCA.

Additionally, Dr. Jenner recognized and congratulated Northview Middle School Principal Thomas Hakim for receiving the 2026 National Institute for Excellence in Teaching (NIET) Founders Award, a national honor recognizing one school annually. Northview Middle School previously won the 2023 Excellence in Leading and Learning Award, which they reinvested in an NIET pilot, leading to significant improvements in ELA, math, EL outcomes, and reductions in discipline incidents. Mr. Mapes shared reflections from his recent visit to Northview, describing the strong school culture, staff leadership, teacher development structure, and the national scale of NIET's impact.

Dr. Jenner also congratulated Ms. Kathy Nimmer (the 2015 Indiana Teacher of the Year) for winning the 2026 Helen Keller Achievement Award from the American Foundation for the Blind.

Dr. Jenner noted the award's prestige and Ms. Nimmer's 30-year career at Harrison High School, along with her work founding SEEDS, which won the 2024 Excellence in Leading and Learning Award.

Dr. Jenner highlighted the Indiana Department of Education's literacy celebrations recognizing over 400 schools for achieving the state's 95% IREAD proficiency goal, as well. Due to the high volume of schools being recognized, the celebration was held as multiple ceremonies this year.

Dr. Jenner also discussed Teacher Appreciation Week and recognized Indiana's 65,000+ teachers, noting the challenge and importance of the final weeks of school. She congratulated the graduating class of 2026 and schools statewide preparing for commencement ceremonies, as well.

Lastly, Dr. Jenner previewed the cybersecurity pathway presentation as a soft launch, noting a forthcoming formal national launch at the Ronald Reagan Institute.

- V. **Board Member Comments and Reports:** Dr. Byron Ernest reported on a recent meeting with eight to ten school corporations regarding the new diploma and accountability redesign. Dr. Ernest highlighted growing student-centered discussions in the field and encouraging alignment toward what is best for students.

- VI. **Public Comment:** None.

- VII. **Consent Agenda:** The consent agenda was approved by unanimous vote. Ms. Mote recused herself from Item H, and Mr. Durham recused himself from Item E. Mr. Watts recused himself from Items C and E.

- A. Employability Skills Standards – [Memo](#) | [Standards](#)
- B. 2026 K-12 Social Studies Standards & Content Connectors – [Memo](#)
- C. 2025-2026 Period 2 ADM Membership Petitions – [Memo](#)
- D. 1003 Flexibility Waivers – [Memo](#)
- E. Common School Loan Advancements for Construction and Technology Programs – [Memo](#)
- F. Common School Loan Amendment – Southwestern Jefferson County Consolidated School Corporation – [Memo](#)
- G. Latch Key Program Waiver – Milan Community School Corporation – [Memo](#)
- H. Initiate Rulemaking – Virtual Program Financial Reporting – [Memo](#) | [Resolution](#)
- I. Non-Public School Accreditation Petitions
 - i. Agape Learning Center – [Memo](#)
 - ii. Mission Christian Academy – [Memo](#)
 - iii. Montessori Academy in the Oaks – [Memo](#)
 - iv. My Safari Preparatory Academy – [Memo](#)
 - v. Narthex Community of Learners – [Memo](#)
 - vi. Scholar's Compass Leadership – [Memo](#)
 - vii. Takesprout Christian School – [Memo](#)
 - viii. The Early Learning Center at Hubbard Hill – [Memo](#)
 - ix. The Willows Academy – [Memo](#)
 - x. Union Bible Academy – [Memo](#)
- J. Governing Body Changes
 - i. Lewis Cass School Corporation – [Memo](#)
 - ii. Marion Community Schools – [Memo](#)

- iii. South Central Community School Corporation – [Memo](#)

VIII. **New Business:** Ron Sandlin, IDOE, Chief Innovation Officer, Jacqueline Kronk, IDOE, Chief Strategy Officer, and Lieutenant Colonel Brent Nelson, Indiana National Guard, presented on expanding cybersecurity education across Indiana.

A. Cyber Security Pathway and Partnership – [Presentation](#)

- i. Mr. Sandlin explained how Hoosiers consistently agree that the following characteristics are most important to a student's lifelong success: academic mastery, career and postsecondary readiness, communication and collaboration, work ethic, and civic, financial, and digital readiness.
- ii. Mr. Sandlin discussed how by increasing Indiana's focus on digital literacy and expanding educational opportunities in cybersecurity, the state can ensure more students have the foundational knowledge, skills, and experiences needed to protect the modern digital infrastructure and are prepared to excel in high-wage, high-demand cybersecurity careers.
- iii. Mr. Sandlin also explained how a recent Forbes article highlighted the growing gap between supply and demand, with an estimated 500,000 job openings nationwide in 2025.
- iv. Additionally, Mr. Sandlin described how with over 20,000 open roles in Indiana's Cybersecurity Hub, Indiana is taking action to address this urgent talent need by identifying and building a coalition of partners, one being the Indiana National Guard.
- v. Lieutenant Colonel Nelson emphasized the growing importance of cybersecurity due to the borderless nature of cyber threats, which can originate globally and impact Indiana immediately. Cyber readiness is critical across military, government, academia, industry, utilities, and healthcare.
- vi. Lieutenant Colonel Nelson also discussed how the Indiana National Guard supports partnering with IDOE to help train students and build a strong cyber talent pipeline. The Indiana National Guard ranks second nationwide in cyber warfare and continues to deploy cyber units to address threats. The state has also launched the Civilian Cyber Corps to strengthen statewide cyber response. Cybersecurity is a statewide priority that benefits from early education and collaboration across sectors.
- vii. Dr. Jenner recognized the Indiana National Guard for their excellent partnership and described how this unique type of homeland defense requires cross-sector training and collaboration.
- viii. Ms. Kronk described how this statewide initiative led by the Indiana Department of Education involves a cross-sector coalition of organizations, including College Board, Project Lead the Way (PLTW), Indiana Cyber Network, Indiana National Guard, Ivy Tech Community College, Indiana Chamber of Commerce Defense Council, Eli Lilly and Company, and other partners who will continue to be added in order to maximize opportunities for students.
- ix. Ms. Kronk explained how this cross-sector partnership will focus on increasing access to cybersecurity coursework and digital literacy opportunities for K-12 students, expanding hands-on learning experiences, strengthening collaboration and alignment, and supporting educators with professional development aligned to cybersecurity career pathways.
- x. Ms. Kronk expressed how through increased access to AP Cybersecurity and Project Lead the Way (PLTW) Cybersecurity courses, students will gain the core

skills they need to understand and protect today's digital systems. Specifically, students can earn both high school and college credit, participate in work-based learning, and earn a tangible credential of value. This puts students one step closer to earning one of Indiana's new diploma readiness seals in enrollment, employment, or enlistment and service.

- xi. Mr. Gastineau asked what teachers need in their backgrounds to apply for PLTW courses, and Dr. Jenner explained how there are a variety of teachers from various fields who are leaning into this work. Ms. Kronk emphasized that College Board and PLTW have it in their scopes of responsibility to provide extensive teacher training and explained how this is a professional development opportunity for Indiana teachers.
- xii. Ms. Kronk explained how over the next three years, Indiana aims to grow the number high schools offering cybersecurity courses and their reach. According to Indiana's Cybersecurity Hub, there are more than 20,000 open cybersecurity roles, highlighting the state's urgent workforce need. Approximately sixty-nine Indiana public high schools currently offer cybersecurity courses, providing access for about 560 students. Over the next three years, Indiana aims to grow that number to 200 high schools, reaching approximately 4,000 students.
- xiii. Through expanded access to these courses, Indiana aims to expand the number of students who enroll in cybersecurity degree programs, pursue a cybersecurity specialty in the national guard, and secure a high-wage, high-demand cybersecurity job.
- xiv. With this launch, Indiana becomes the first state to build a comprehensive, military-aligned cybersecurity pathway connecting high schools, two- and four-year institutions, the National Guard, and employers. This first-of-its-kind initiative positions Indiana as a national leader in cybersecurity education.
- xv. Mr. Sandlin described how the shared goal is that the high school experience prepares every student for success, helping them to maximize their educational attainment, regardless of their unique goals and aspirations for the future. The final rule maintains one base diploma with minimum, flexible requirements for all students, as well as opportunities for students to earn readiness seals aligned with their unique path.
- xvi. Mr. Sandlin explained how through alignment with the new diploma and seals, students can earn AP credits, participate in high-quality work-based learning in Indiana's growing cybersecurity sector (Enrollment Plus and Employment seals), develop and demonstrate communication, collaboration, and work ethic through a mentorship experience with the Indiana National Guard (Enrollment Plus, Employment seals, Enlistment and Service seals), or earn a credential of value (Enrollment Plus and Employment seals).
- xvii. Dr. Jenner emphasized how this is another avenue of alignment for Indiana students.
- xviii. Ms. Hammel appreciated the breakaway from siloed thinking and explained how cybersecurity touches all industries and should be framed that way for students.
- xix. Mr. Gastineau shared classroom discussion experiences demonstrating students' understanding of cyber threats as a major global issue and noted growing enthusiasm for cybersecurity as a meaningful service pathway.
- xx. Ms. Rentschler asked about prerequisite coursework and student readiness. Mr. Sandlin explained how the College Board will be able to advise and discuss any

necessary prerequisites associated with these AP courses. This information will also eventually be included in the department's course titles and descriptions.

- xxi. Dr. Jenner emphasized how emerging talent associations will be crucial in defining competencies needed by industries and highlighted ongoing alignment work to define and scale access.
- xxii. K-12 schools and employers interested in participating or supporting expanded cybersecurity opportunities for students can learn more by contacting indianacyber@collegeboard.org.

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