



# The Torch

The official newsletter for State of Indiana employees

June 2026

## Greetings from the Governor

- Watch Governor Braun's latest [video message](#) to State employees.
- Sign up for the Governor's weekly newsletter, [here](#).



## Governor Braun expands State employee New Parent Leave policy to support foster families

Article by the Office of the Governor and the Indiana State Personnel Department

Building on the administration's commitment to supporting Hoosier families, Governor Mike Braun announced an update to Indiana's [New Parent Leave \(NPL\) policy](#). The NPL policy now ensures that eligible State employees who welcome a child into their home through foster care can receive paid leave.

By extending this support to foster parents, the State of Indiana acknowledges the unique needs of children entering foster care and the essential role foster families play in providing stability during times of transition.

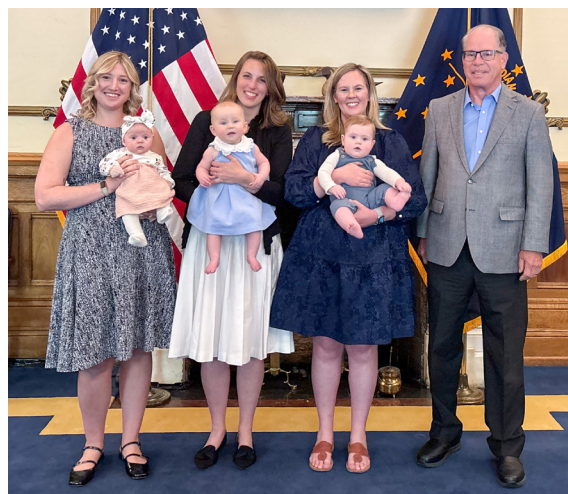
This policy change is part of Governor Braun's broader Family First Workplace initiative, which

focuses on making Indiana a more supportive environment for working parents. It also complements several recent efforts to strengthen services for Hoosier families, including:

- Establishing Childbirth Recovery Leave through Executive Order 25-34, providing eligible State employees with additional paid leave following childbirth, ensuring support during recovery in alignment with program guidelines.
- Directing INSPD to create a new Infants at Work policy that allows State agencies to establish internal programs enabling qualifying employees to bring an infant to the workplace, consistent with program

guidelines and operational needs.

- Investing \$200 million to increase access to affordable child care.
- Signing HEA 1177 to enhance Indiana's employer child care tax credit and encourage more businesses to offer quality, on-site child care.



Three State employees who utilized the Infants at Work pilot program pose with their babies and Governor Braun.

**The Torch** is published monthly by the Indiana State Personnel Department and is available online at [on.in.gov/TheTorch](https://on.in.gov/TheTorch).

### Want more content?

Check out the State of Indiana on LinkedIn and Facebook and @WorkForIndiana on X and Instagram.

### Have a story?

Submit your story ideas to: [spdcommunications@spd.in.gov](mailto:spdcommunications@spd.in.gov)

## New PeopleSoft link reminder



changed. If you haven't already, please make sure you are using the updated links provided by the Indiana Office of Technology (IOT) earlier this week. Clearing your browser cache may also help prevent access issues.

[in.gov/core/info\\_employees.html](https://www.in.gov/core/info_employees.html).

If your agency maintains PeopleSoft links on internal SharePoint sites or if you have the link bookmarked in your browser, please update those links to point to the State Employee Resources page to ensure consistency and avoid outdated access points.

Article by the Indiana Office of Technology

Following last weekend's planned outage and cloud migration, all PeopleSoft links have now

Employees are encouraged to access PeopleSoft through the State Employee Resources page, which will always contain the most current and accurate links: [www.](http://www.)

If you experience any issues logging in to PeopleSoft, the IOT Helpdesk is always available to assist at 317-234-HELP (4357) or toll free at 800-382-1095.

## Complete the Interim Review Self-Assessment by June 14

Article by the State Personnel Department

The Interim Review is an opportunity for managers and employees at participating agencies to discuss progress toward successful goal outcomes. These discussions are designed to limit surprises during the formal Performance Appraisal process and to course correct if necessary.

### Accessing the Interim Review

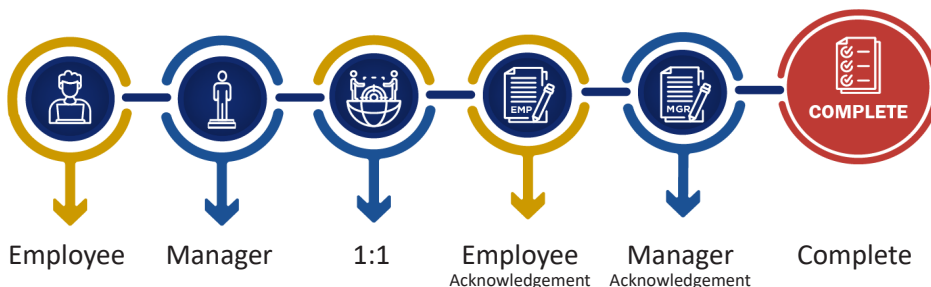
The interim Review process is available in the SuccessFactors "To-do" tile. Employees should first complete the Self-Assessment step. This is an opportunity to highlight progress, achievement,

and challenges for the managers to review. Managers can begin drafting the Manager Assessment step by accessing the Team Overview tab from the performance inbox.

### Interim Review Resources

Use the Interim Review Job Aids for [Managers](#) and [Employees](#) and the following videos in SuccessFactors Jam to navigate the process:

- [Ask for Feedback for an Employee Review Video](#)
- [Drafting a Review Before Self-Assessment Completion Video](#)



## Lower fees to help you save more with Hoosier START

Article by the State Comptroller's Office



Good news! The administrative fee for State employees' [Hoosier START Deferred Compensation Plan](#), administered by the State Comptroller's Office, has been reduced by \$6.00 per year (\$1.50 per quarter). Effective April 1, 2026, the quarterly fee decreased from \$12.00 to \$10.50. You will see this updated fee reflected in the transaction details on your second quarter statement delivered in July.

Questions about Hoosier START? Visit [hoosierstartnationwide.com/contact](https://www.hoosierstartnationwide.com/contact).

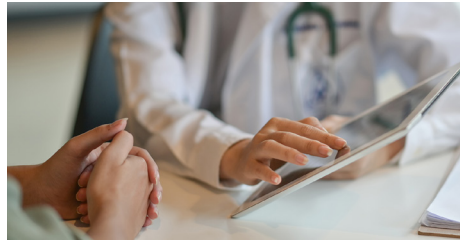
# Now is the time to schedule your 2026 preventive care screenings

Article by the State Personnel Department

Not only can eligible employees and spouses earn [Wellness Rewards](#) for completing preventive care screenings, but they can also help make informed health decisions and offer opportunities for early diagnosis of medical conditions.

### Preventive Screenings:

- [Annual Physical](#): Earn \$200
- [Cancer screenings](#): Earn \$50/screening
- [Eye exam](#): Earn \$50
- [Dental exam & cleaning](#): Earn \$50
- [Vaccines](#): \$25/vaccine, max \$100



To earn the reward, each activity must be visible in your [Mobile Health Consumer Rewards Center](#) by December 31, 2026. Service or activity must be completed in 2026. It can take up to four weeks for Anthem claims or submissions to be processed.

[Click here](#) for more information.

# Simplified healthcare with a personal touch

Article by the State Personnel Department

[Total Health Connections](#) is an Anthem service designed to simplify healthcare, make it more personal, and easier to navigate. The program offers **personalized benefits** and a dedicated **Family Advocate** as a single point of contact who is ready to help with answers and information.

### Total Health Connections gives you access to personalized benefits:

- **Clinical Advocates**, such as registered nurses, work with your doctor to create personalized care plans for you.
- **Building Healthy Families** provides guidance & resources for growing your family, having a baby, or raising children age 5 and under.
- **Behavioral Health Resource Center** provides expert, confidential, and compassionate care for your mental health virtually or in person, 24/7.

Learn how to earn up to [\\$50 in Wellness Rewards](#) for participating in Total Health Connections.

### Call your Family Advocate to get started! They can:

- Help you find top-quality, in-network doctors, specialists, and care facilities.
- Schedule appointments and stay on top of preventive care.
- Connect with Anthem's clinical specialists for personalized care plans.
- Quickly secure approvals for urgent medical needs like surgery.
- Answer questions about your health plan and other benefits.

If you are enrolled in the State's health plan through Anthem, you have already been assigned a Family Advocate, and they are ready to help! **Just call 877-814-9709 to get connected.**

# Run the State Series 5K on June 27 at White River State Park

The [2026 Run the State Series](#)

continues with the third event - a 5K run or walk on

**Saturday, June 27, at White River State Park in downtown Indy!** If you haven't signed up for this event, now is the time! [Learn more & register for the 5k at White River State Park.](#)



The free Run the State series events offer State employees the opportunity to get outdoors, get



moving, and enjoy State parks with their family, friends, and colleagues. All participants also receive a free Run the State shirt, medal, and State Park pin!

# You're a smart cookie

Article by WGU



June 6 is National Higher Education Day, and WGU is celebrating all month long. Stop by the [Statehouse Market](#) on Thursday, June 11 to learn more and pick up a cookie!

With WGU's flexible online degrees and certificates, you can build skills for your current role or what's next.

Discover Your Next Step: [Higher Education Day 2026](#)

# IDOC Emergency Response Unit team earns top honors at 2026 Mock Prison Riot

Article by Indiana Dept. of Correction

Indiana Department of Correction's (IDOC) Emergency Response Unit team, which is made up of ERO members from facilities across the state, recently competed and took home first place at a "Mock Prison Riot" exercise in West Virginia. The competition included 28 teams, four of which were international. The Mock Prison Riot allows teams to prepare for what they do best and show their skills. The exercise is comprised of two

components: the Skills Competition and the actual Mock Prison Riot, which consists of workshops, tactical training scenarios, technology demonstrations, and a technology exhibit hall.

IDOC took first place in breach, climb, and recover. They also captured third place in recover, breach and secure, as well as second place in respond and recover. [Read the full story here.](#)



## Welcome Governor's Summer Interns

Article by Indiana State Personnel Dept.

Over 140 Governor's Summer Interns arrived throughout the month of May to spend their summers learning about State government with more than 30

agencies. Created in 1989, the Governor's Summer Internship program has been giving university students from across the state the opportunity to learn about their chosen fields and network with

professionals and fellow interns for decades. This summer, our interns will look forward to meetings with State government officials, professional development workshops, public service opportunities in the local community, mentorship



pairings, and more.

These interns will not only have a summer filled with learning opportunities, but they'll also bring fresh perspectives and new ideas to their respective teams. Be sure to say hello if you notice some new faces at your agency.



## Plan your summer fun with State employee discounts

Through the State Employee Discount program, State employees have access to a variety of discounts from businesses across Indiana. Plan your summer fun with these discounts! Click the links to view the details for each discount.

- [Holiday World and Splashin' Safari](#)
- [Indiana Beach](#)
- [Kentucky Kingdom & Hurricane Bay](#)
- [Indiana State Park Inns](#)
- [Indianapolis Indians](#)
- [Indy Eleven](#)

[View a list of all employee discounts.](#)

