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## Special Education Newsletter from the Indiana Department of Education



Indiana Department of Education sent this bulletin at 10/28/2024 08:00 AM EDT



Indiana Department of Education

Dr. Katie Jenner, Secretary of Education

## Special Education Newsletter

This monthly newsletter from the Indiana Department of Education (IDOE) Office of Special Education (OSE) includes resources, guidance, and support for special education directors, educators, and administrators who provide essential services that Indiana's students with disabilities need to learn and thrive.

### Fiscal

#### Upcoming: Behavior Grant

The Office of Special Education is offering a grant focused on behavior support for students with disabilities. Grant funds may be awarded to school corporations, charter schools, and state schools to ensure safe learning environments that support academic achievement for students with IEPs. The grant application is now open and will close on Tuesday, December 31. Monthly office hours to support the application process will be held at the following times:

- [Wednesday, October 30, from noon to 1 p.m. ET](#)
- [Wednesday, November 20, from noon to 1 p.m. ET](#)
- [Thursday, December 12, from 9 to 10 a.m. ET](#)

Please refer to upcoming announcements in Moodle and weekly newsletters for more information regarding applications and office hours. Email [osebehaviorgrant@doe.in.gov](mailto:osebehaviorgrant@doe.in.gov) with any questions.

#### Medicaid Claiming for Mandated School-based Medical Services

The Code of Federal Regulations 42 CFR 455.440 states that a state Medicaid agency must require all claims for payment for items and services that were ordered or referred to contain the National Provider Identifier (NPI) of the physician or other professional who ordered or referred such items or services. For Indiana Medicaid purposes, other than transportation services, Indiana Medicaid will be requiring an ordering or referring provider for all Medicaid claiming activities. School corporations may use any Indiana Medicaid-enrolled practitioner who can order an item or a service within their scope of practice.

For Medicaid claiming purposes, if a school psychologist is being used to satisfy this requirement, that individual must be enrolled with Indiana Medicaid. Effective Immediately, a licensed school psychologist may enroll with Indiana Medicaid under the Ordering, Prescribing, Referring (OPR) provider classification. Please see [BT2024141](#) for full details. Indiana Medicaid provider relations has also prepared a [webinar](#) to explain this process.

Starting Friday, November 1, any medical claims without an OPR provider will be denied for the explanation of benefit Code 1132. That new explanation of the benefit code will specify that Specialty 120 or 212 is missing or has an invalid referring NPI. Please note that these requirements are specific to school corporations that are submitting Medicaid claims for mandated school-based services.

#### New School Medicaid Mailbox

IDOE has created a new DOE School Medicaid mailbox ([schoolmedicaid@doe.in.gov](mailto:schoolmedicaid@doe.in.gov)). Please use this mailbox for all questions, concerns, issues, or suggestions regarding school Medicaid claims.

## Monitoring

### 2024-2025 Parent Survey Materials Now Available

Each school year, IDOE conducts the parent survey to determine whether parents and families feel included in the special education process. Students (ages 18 and older) and families are encouraged to participate in the survey at least once a year. The survey can be taken [online](#) or completed using a [paper version](#) that should be mailed to IDOE (instructions can be found within Google Drive). The survey is available in three languages: English, Spanish, and Burmese. Contact IDOE's [Office of Special Education monitoring team](#) with questions.

### Data Exchange (DEX) Office Hours for 2024-2025

Weekly DEX Office Hours sessions are currently available on Tuesdays, and session times will alternate between morning and afternoon sessions. The next session will be held on Tuesday, October 29, from 1 to 2:30 p.m. ET with a focus on special education. Submit questions and access the sessions via the [Upcoming Events section](#) of the Knowledge Hub. Contact IDOE's [Office of Information Technology](#) with additional questions.

## Dispute Resolution

### Effective General Supervision, Part B/General Supervision

*Indicator 15: Due Process Hearings Resolution Data*

The Office of Special Education is required to collect *Resolution Data for Indicator 15* to report to the U.S. Department of Education every November. Indicator 15 measures the percentage of hearing requests resolved through resolution session settlement agreements.

*NOTICE to schools involved in a due process hearing FY 2024:*

Please [log in to your I-CHAMP account](#) and enter resolution data on any due process hearings your local education agency (LEA) has been involved in for the fiscal year 2024 (July 1, 2023, through June 30, 2024). This year, the data must be entered into ICHAMP **no later than Thursday, October 31, 2024**.

If you have questions on how to enter this data, please visit the I-CHAMP website. On the I-CHAMP's homepage, select the button titled [User Guides & Info](#) – then select the Schools Tab. User guides on “How to Enter Resolution Data” and “How to Locate Closed Records” include the information you need.

Please Note: Per Article 7, a resolution meeting is not required if the parent(s) and the LEA agree in writing to waive the resolution meeting or the parent(s) and the LEA use the **IDOE's mediation process described in 511 IAC 7-45-2**.

Directors of LEAs involved in hearings for FY 2025 (July 1, 2024, through June 30, 2025) may enter your resolution data once the resolution period has ended. If you have any other questions, please contact the [Dispute Resolution Team](#).

## Technical Assistance and Professional Development

### New Special Education Teacher Office Hours

IDOE's Office of Special Education, Technical Assistance (TA) Team will hold office hours for new special education teachers from 4 to 5 p.m. ET on Thursdays once a month. These meetings will be to support teachers new to special education in navigating a variety of pertinent topics. The first part of the office hour will be a formal presentation on a relevant topic and the last part will be an open Q&A with an opportunity for teachers of record (TORs) to ask questions. The next will be Thursday, November 14, and will focus on supporting students with sensory loss. Dates and topics for the rest of the year can be found [here](#). Registration is not required; find the link to join [here](#). Contact IDOE's [Office of Special Education](#) with any questions.

### Elevating Education 2024: “Improving Outcomes for All” Statewide Conference

In collaboration with IDOE, the IEP TA Center invites you to join our statewide conference, Elevating Education: Improving Outcomes for All. The goal of this conference is for participants to gain knowledge, build capacity, and network with colleagues in order to deliver the most effective educational programming for all students. The conference, intended for general educators, special educators, and administrators, will take place at the Hyatt Regency Indianapolis and the Indiana Convention Center on Tuesday, December 3, and Wednesday, December 4. For more information and registration information, visit the [conference website](#). Contact [Marcee Wilburn](#) from the IEP TA Center with additional questions.

### Special Education Directors Symposium

The directors symposium supports special education directors and administrators in learning about special education policies and resources available to Indiana LEAs, providing timely and relevant information that guides them toward increased confidence in their roles and increased compliance in their corporation's reporting. Please complete the [interest form](#) to receive updates regarding the symposium,

which will meet virtually each month. The next sessions will be 3 to 4:30 p.m. ET, on Tuesday, November 12, focusing on Early Childhood Transitions and Graduation Data, and Wednesday, November 20, focusing on Dispute Procedures and Special Education Excess Cost (SEEC). Recordings of sessions will be uploaded to the OSE Moodle community in the "Technical Assistance Resource" folder. A list of all upcoming Symposium topics and dates can be found [here](#). Contact IDOE's [Office of Special Education](#) with any questions.

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### November Indiana IEP (IIEP) Virtual Office Hours

Join IIEP virtual office hours sessions hosted by Public Consulting Group (PCG) on the third Wednesday of each month from 11 a.m. to noon ET via Microsoft Teams. Sessions will also be recorded and available in IIEP under the *Training* tab. [Register for November's session](#) to learn more about recent system updates and upcoming changes, followed by a question and answer session. Contact [PCG](#) with questions regarding these office hours.

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### Indiana IEP (IIEP) Update Release Notes

PCG released details on recent IIEP system updates, which include the locations and descriptions of updates. View this resource [here](#). Contact [PCG](#) with questions.

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### Upcoming No-Cost Trainings from The IEP TA Center

The IEP TA Center has a variety of upcoming, no-cost [workshops](#) for Indiana educators in Indianapolis. Review upcoming opportunities on the [training catalog](#). Contact [Marcee Wilburn](#) from the IEP TA Center with any questions.

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## Special Educator Licensure, Recruitment, and Recognition

### Licensing Verification and Information Center (LVIS) Now Integrated with the Indiana Learning Lab

Educators can now link their Indiana Learning Lab accounts with their LVIS accounts so all professional growth plan (PGP) points earned in the Learning Lab will automatically populate in LVIS for license renewal. More information can be found [here](#). Contact IDOE's [Office of Educator Licensing](#) for help with your LIVS account.

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### Recommendations Open for Distinguished Educators Recognition

IDOE is looking for confidential recommendations from teachers representing the very best educators in Indiana. These emerging leaders must have between five and 15 years of experience, demonstrate leadership beyond the classroom, and positively impact school culture and student achievement. Superintendents and principals may submit recommendations [here](#). Recommendations must be submitted by Saturday, November 30. Contact IDOE's [Office of Educator Talent](#) with any questions.

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### Additional Opportunities to Recognize Indiana Educators

Throughout the year, numerous opportunities arise nationwide to acknowledge the incredible work of Indiana educators. IDOE's Office of Educator Talent has developed [this document](#), which will be updated periodically with external opportunities to recognize educators. To submit an educator recognition opportunity not listed, contact IDOE's [Office of Educator Talent](#).

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### 2025 Indiana Teacher of the Year Announced

On Friday, September 27, Graciela Miranda, a teacher at Pike High School in Indianapolis, was named the 2025 Indiana Teacher of the Year! As Teacher of the Year, Graciela will work to help elevate the teaching profession in Indiana, as well as represent Hoosier teachers at the national level. Read more about her achievement [here](#), and learn more about the Indiana Teacher of the Year program [here](#). Contact IDOE's [Teacher of the Year team](#) with questions.

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## Updates from the U.S. Department of Education (ED)

### Early Intervention Data: Where to Start!

Are you looking to address disparities in early intervention and early childhood special education systems and promote more equitable practices and outcomes? Or maybe you want to take action on the data submitted by local programs or districts and review it by race, gender, language, or income.

Knowing where to start can be challenging, but taking one step forward is critical. The Center for IDEA Early Childhood Data Systems ([DaSy Center](#)) developed the DaSy [Data Inquiry Cycle](#) to support Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) Part C and Part B 619 program staff in addressing equity considerations at each stage of the data inquiry cycle. Read DaSy's latest blog post "[Equity in Data: Where to Start](#)" to learn more.

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## New Online Module from The IRIS Center and Bookshare on Providing Accessible Materials

[Bookshare: Providing Accessible Materials for Students with Print Disabilities](#) is a self-paced, online module that can be embedded in educator preparation courses and school or district professional development activities. Learners can also earn a [free professional development certificate of completion](#).

The module explores:

- Print disabilities and how printed materials create learning barriers
- Accessible Educational Materials (AEM) and formats that can address a wide range of learner needs
- Bookshare benefits, formats, and membership options
- Bookshare in the classroom

The module also includes:

- Examples featuring three students with disabilities: Gema, a ninth grader with a visual impairment; Thomas, a fifth grader who has cerebral palsy; and Liza, a third grader who has difficulty decoding printed words
- Audio interviews with experts, practitioners, and a former student who used Bookshare
- Videos of students with different print disabilities sharing their experiences with Bookshare
- Step-by-step instructional videos on how to assign materials and request resources not currently available in Bookshare
- Interactive practice opportunities with feedback

## Additional Updates, Resources, and Opportunities

### IREAD Guidance - 2024-2025 School Year

Beginning this school year, all second grade students will participate in the spring administration of IREAD. New Indiana legislation updated guidance schools must use when making decisions about grade-level promotion, instructional plans, and Good Cause Exemption (GCE) eligibility. The purpose of a GCE has significantly changed from past years. Beginning with the 2024-2025 IREAD test administration, a GCE now serves to exempt an eligible student from retention if the student does not pass IREAD in third grade. New resources for IREAD can be found here and on IDOE's [IREAD webpage](#).

- [Process & Considerations for Issuing a Good Cause Exemption](#)
- [IREAD Frequently Asked Questions](#)
- [Communication Guidance for Incoming Kindergarten Students: IREAD Assessment Outcomes](#)
- GCE Parent Letter Template ([English](#) | [Spanish](#))
- [After the GCE: Students with Disabilities](#)
- [After the GCE: English Learners](#)

Contact [IDOE's Office of Student Assessment](#) with any questions.

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### ILEARN Checkpoint Summits

IDOE and regional Education Service Centers of Indiana (ESCI) are partnering to provide three ILEARN Checkpoint professional development opportunities for educators and instructional leaders. Registration, location, and agenda information can be found [here](#). Contact IDOE's [Office of Student Assessment](#) with any questions.

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### Artificial Intelligence (AI) Platforms in Indiana Series

Nine sessions from AI platforms being used in Indiana schools are [now available on demand](#) in the Indiana Learning Lab. Each featured platform was selected by at least one corporation during grant opportunities and met one or more of the iterations of IDOE's vendor requirements. Contact IDOE's [Office of Digital Learning](#) with any questions.

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### The Central Indiana Corporate Partnership (CICP): See Yourself IN High School Summit

Join [CICP](#) and its five talent and industry sector initiatives for the [See Yourself IN High School Summit](#) on Thursday, November 21. Students will join us for a day of engaging panel discussions and hands-on demonstrations. This free event shines a light on Indiana companies, leaders, and young talent working in the state's fastest-growing industries. Contact [Hali Mynatt](#) with questions.

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### Students Invited to Hoosier Holiday Event

First Lady Janet Holcomb invites students to the Hoosier Holiday program at the Statehouse on Monday, December 9. More information on this opportunity can be found in [this letter](#). Reserve your spot at the Statehouse Tour Office by calling 317-233-5293.

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## HANDS in Autism® Trainings and Resources

### ***HANDS Developmental Disabilities and Autism ECHO Webinar Series and Recordings***

The Developmental Disabilities and Autism ECHO is based on the Project ECHO™ model that aims to share best practices and amplify training impact. The model serves as a means for specialists to deliver curriculum topics while peers and panelists offer insights on the corresponding cases presented. Live sessions and recordings are available. The live sessions occur on Fridays, from noon to 1:30 p.m. ET. To register for the live sessions or to learn more about dates and topics click [here](#). To view previously recorded sessions, create an account with Indiana University's Expand, a portal for professional development, [here](#); for additional directions on accessing recordings click [here](#).

### ***Next Steps Workshop***

Join the HANDS in Autism® Team in the upcoming no-cost Next Steps™ Workshop to learn more about characteristics of ASD and related disabilities, considerations for all family members, statewide and local supports, rights and regulations, financial considerations, best practices and practical strategies available to support individuals on the spectrum and their families or caregivers, as well as collaboration pointers for working with your school and other providers.

Next Steps™ is primarily designed for primary caregivers who have a child who has recently been diagnosed with autism spectrum disorder (ASD). However, this workshop is also beneficial for other caregivers, educational or therapy professionals, medical providers, and other adult family members. The 2-day sessions allow you to apply and practice what you have learned and develop tools and strategies applicable to your setting. Date options are Tuesday, October 29, and Thursday, October 31, Tuesday, November 12, and Thursday, November 14, and Tuesday, December 10, and Thursday, December 12. All sessions are from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. ET. Register [here](#).

### ***Make-It Take-It Series(MITI)***

This free virtual workshop series is designed to educate participants about evidence-based strategies, learn how to use these strategies with individuals with ASD across settings (home, school, community), as well as to discuss and plan various materials tailored for the individual(s) you know. These interactive workshops provide an opportunity to learn about and create tools used to support individuals with ASD. Each session will focus on a different area of interest. Sessions are online, Wednesdays from noon to 2 p.m. ET. It is not necessary to complete all of the sessions in the workshop series, so register [here](#) for all or some of the sessions.

### ***Intensive Workshop for Paraprofessionals, Direct Support Providers, Assistants, and Support Personnel***

Join the HANDS in Autism® Team for an intensive workshop for paraprofessionals, assistants, and support personnel that focuses on providing hands-on experience and coaching in a simulated setting. While the program includes traditional instructional methods such as lectures and discussion, the emphasis of the workshop is building increased knowledge and skill of the process to support students with varying levels of disability and need in achieving maximum success. Trainings are available either in-person or virtually, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. ET on Friday, November 1, or Friday, December 6. In most cases, accommodations for an alternate date can be made upon request for both the virtual and in-person training. The cost is \$150. Register [here](#).

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## **Easterseals K-12 ATLAS (Assistive Technology Library and Services) Update**

Easterseals has launched a website specifically for Indiana's K-12 educators. Visit [K-12 ATLAS](#) for more information about the Assistive Technology Lending Library program, Accessible Educational Materials, and more. Join the mailing list to receive the latest news and updates from the K-12 ATLAS team.

### Upcoming Dates



<b>Tuesday, October 29, from 1 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. ET</b>	DEX Office Hours: Special Education
<b>Wednesday, October 30, from noon to 1 p.m. ET</b>	<a href="#">Monthly office hours: Behavior Grant</a>
<b>Thursday, October 31</b>	Deadline to enter FY 2024 dispute resolution data into I-CHAMP
<b>Tuesday, November 12</b>	Special Education Directors Symposium: Early Childhood Transitions and Graduation Data

Thursday, November 14, from 4 to 5 p.m.	<a href="#">New SPED Teacher office hours</a> : Students with Sensory Loss
Wednesday, November 20	Special Education Directors Symposium: Dispute Procedures and SEEC
Wednesday, November 20, noon to 1 p.m. ET	<a href="#">Monthly office hours: Behavior Grant</a>
Saturday, November 30	Deadline to recommend distinguished educators for recognition
Tuesday, December 3, and Wednesday, December 4	Elevating Education 2024: Improving Outcomes for All Statewide Conference
Thursday, December 12, from 9 to 10 a.m. ET	<a href="#">Monthly office hours: Behavior Grant</a>

### Additional Resources

- [Office of Special Education](#)
- [Office of Special Education Moodle Community](#)



## Department News

- 10/09/24 Hoosiers Encouraged to Share Feedback on Second Draft of Diploma Rule
- 10/02/24 Indiana Launches Early Childhood Education Registered Teacher Apprenticeship Program

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