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## Teacher Newsletter from the Indiana Department of Education

Indiana Department of Education sent this bulletin at 01/08/2024 08:00 AM EST



Indiana Department of Education

Dr. Katie Jenner, Secretary of Education

## Teacher Newsletter

We know that real impact for students happens at the educator-level. We have seen time and again when teacher leaders are a catalyst for positive change in schools...whether that means creating new opportunities for students that did not previously exist...or forging connections with higher education institutions and employers that may bring to light career possibilities that a student would not have otherwise considered or imagined. You (our teachers!) are our difference-makers for students, and this newsletter from the Indiana Department of Education (IDOE) is dedicated to elevating your work and providing new information and resources to help you as you support Indiana's students.

### Educator Pipeline (Attract, Prepare, Retain)

#### Indiana Commission for Higher Education's Next Generation Hoosier Educators Scholarship Application Now Available

The Commission for Higher Education is accepting applications for the [Next Generation Hoosier Educators Scholarship](#) and the Next Generation Hoosier Minority Educators Scholarship, which provide up to \$40,000 of financial aid to aspiring teachers. High-achieving high school and college students who plan to teach in Indiana for at least five years can receive up to \$10,000 per year of college (up to \$40,000 total) from the scholarship. Current college students who apply must be able to use the scholarship for at least two full academic years. Students must apply by Wednesday, January 31, at [ScholarTrack.IN.gov](#). Students who apply for both the Next Generation Hoosier Educators Scholarship and the Next Generation Hoosier Minority Educators Scholarship can only be selected for one of the awards. Contact [NextTeacher@che.in.gov](mailto:NextTeacher@che.in.gov) with any questions.

#### Educator Profiles: Indiana Educator Job Board

IDOE's Office of Educator Talent encourages all educators and school employees to create a candidate profile in IDOE's [IN Educator Talent Marketplace](#). Access instructions for using the platform [here](#). Contact the [Educator Effectiveness and Leadership](#) team with any questions.

#### Indiana STEM Educator Expansion Program (I-STEM) Registration Now Available

IDOE has announced a partnership with Educational Service Centers of Indiana (ESCI) to strengthen Indiana's STEM educator pipeline. The I-STEM partnership provides support for both currently licensed teachers in non-STEM areas and prospective teachers who are not licensed and hold a bachelor's degree to become licensed in a STEM content area. IDOE has identified eligible STEM content areas as life science, chemistry, earth/space science, physics, physical science, computer science, technology education, and mathematics. Click [here](#) to learn more and register. Contact IDOE's [Office of Educator Talent](#) with any questions.

### Literacy and STEM Support

#### Science of Reading Experts Explain Series Continues

Join IDOE and The Reading League Indiana from noon to 1 p.m. ET on Thursday, January 18, for *The Hidden Potential of the Science of Reading: Screening and Instructing Language in Early Childhood*. With Dr. Nell Thompson. The [Experts Explain Series](#) runs throughout the 2023-2024 school year and features nationally-renowned reading experts to support schools in shifting instruction toward evidence-based reading and writing instruction. Register for the sessions [here](#), and view previous sessions on-demand in the [Indiana Learning Lab](#). Contact IDOE's [Literacy Center](#) with any questions.

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## Correlation Guides for 2023 Indiana Academic Standards Now Available

Correlation guides for changes between the 2020 and 2023 Indiana Academic Standards for English/language arts, mathematics, computer science, and social studies (including the grade six civics course) are now available on content-specific pages from [IDOE's Indiana Academic Standards webpage](#). Contact IDOE's [Office of Teaching and Learning](#) with any questions.

## Assessment Update

### Apply for the ILEARN U.S. Government Standards/Cut Score Confirmation Committee

IDOE invites current teachers, instructional coaches, and curriculum leaders with expertise in required content and skills for the high school U.S. Government course to apply for the [ILEARN U.S. Government Standards/Cut Score Confirmation Committee](#). This committee will convene virtually on Thursday, February 22, to review the current cut scores for the ILEARN U.S. Government End-of-Course Assessment (ECA) to ensure alignment to the 2023 future-focused Indiana Academic Standards. Committee participants will receive a \$160 honorarium and Professional Growth Plan (PGP) points for their participation. IDOE will follow up with selected participants. [Apply for this opportunity here by Monday, February 5](#). Contact IDOE's [Office of Student Assessment](#) with any questions.

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### ILEARN Released Items Repository (RIR) Refresh & Test Administrator's Manual (TAM)

Newly-released items for ILEARN 3-8 English/Language Arts, Mathematics, and Social Studies become available in the [RIR](#) on Wednesday, January 17. Students may access the RIR via the [Indiana Assessment Portal](#) to review released test items for additional practice and familiarity with testing. Refer to the [RIR Scoring Guides webpage](#) and the [RIR Quick Guide](#) for additional information.

The [2023-2024 ILEARN TAM](#) is now available on the Indiana Assessment Portal. This resource combines the previously-separated ILEARN 3-8, Biology ECA, and U.S. Government ECA manuals into one resource. Staff should review the TAM prior to administering practice and operational assessments, as there are significant changes to the [Scheduling and Timing Guidance](#) section. Contact the [Indiana Assessment Help Desk](#) with any questions.

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### ILEARN Checkpoints Pilot Opt-In Opportunity Information

Educators can access the following resources for more information on the ILEARN Checkpoints Pilot for the 2024-2025 school year.

- [ILEARN Checkpoint Pilot Opt-In Opportunity Overview](#)
- [ILEARN Checkpoint Pilot Live Frequently Asked Questions \(FAQs\)](#)
- [ILEARN Checkpoint Pilot Data Overview](#)

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

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### January College Board Training Opportunities

College Board is hosting several training sessions for staff supporting administration of the SAT School Day this spring.

- [Official SAT Practice Webinar](#): Thursday, January 18, at 10 a.m. ET
- [BigFuture and Opportunity Scholarship Webinar](#): Monday, January 29, at 10 a.m. ET

Contact [College Board](#) with additional questions on these opportunities.

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### WIDA ACCESS Testing Window Opens Tuesday, January 16

The WIDA ACCESS testing window opens Tuesday, January 16, and educators can use the following contact information if assistance is needed during the test window:

- [WIDA Client Service Center](#): Phone: (866) 276-7735
  - Contact for WIDA Secure Portal resources and training support
- [Data Recognition Corporation \(DRC\) Customer Service](#): Phone: (855) 787-9615
  - Contact for WIDA AMS functionality, technical issues, and materials

Join IDOE for a [pre-testing Q&A session](#) on Wednesday, January 10, from 3 to 4 p.m. ET for additional support prior to the testing window. Reach out to IDOE's [Office of Student Assessment](#) with any questions regarding policy and participation.

## Indiana Learning Lab

### January Sessions: Professional Development (PD) with IDOE, Blended Learning Series, & More

Join us this month in the Indiana Learning Lab for [January's PD with IDOE](#), continuation of the [Science of Reading: Experts Explain Series](#), the [Blended Learning Series](#), [Q&A sessions on the ILEARN Checkpoint Pilot](#), and more.

- Monday, January 8: [Station Rotation Model: Grades 6-12](#)
- Tuesday, January 9: [ILEARN Checkpoints Pilot Q&A](#)
- Tuesday, January 9: [WIDA Standards Spotlight: Language Expectations](#)
- Wednesday, January 10: [Digital Learning Grant Success Stories](#)
- Tuesday, January 16: [Flipped Instruction: Grades K-5, English-Language Arts and Math](#)
- Wednesday, January 17: [SAT State-Allowed Accommodations \(SAAs\)](#)
- Thursday, January 18: [The Hidden Potential of the Science of Reading: Screening and Instructing Language in Early Childhood](#)
- Thursday, January 18: [ILEARN Checkpoints Pilot Q&A](#)
- Friday, January 19: [ILEARN Checkpoints Pilot Q&A](#)
- Monday, January 22: [Flipped Instruction: Grades 6-12](#)
- Wednesday, January 24: [Your Brain on Books: Reading in a Digital World](#)
- Wednesday, January 24: [Setting Your Child Up for Success](#)
- Wednesday, January 31: [New Year, New You: Tech Tools for 2024 - AI Edition](#)
- Wednesday, January 31: [Keeping Kids Healthy During the Winter Months](#)

View additional upcoming sessions and on-demand recordings on the [Indiana Learning Lab](#). Contact IDOE's [Office of Digital Learning](#) with any questions.

## Additional Teaching & Learning Resources

### Grade Six Civics Course Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

Access the updated [Grade Six Civics Course FAQ resource](#) for information addressing changes following the 2023 standards streamlining process. This resource aligns with 2023 Indiana Academic Standards and correlation guides. Contact IDOE's [Office of Teaching and Learning](#) with questions.

### Social Studies Frameworks for Grades K-2 and Grade Six Civics Course Now Available

Access the [2023 Social Studies Frameworks](#) for kindergarten through grade two and the grade six civics course within the Indiana Learning Lab to support standards implementation through key areas of focus (e.g., academic vocabulary, clarification statements, and instructional resources). Contact IDOE's [Office of Teaching and Learning](#) with questions.

## Additional Professional Development Opportunities

### Strasbourg Cultural Exchange Opportunities

High school educators interested in learning more about opportunities to partner with Strasbourg schools through linguistic and cultural exchange programs can complete this [form](#) to receive more information about the specific opportunities available and how to get connected. Contact IDOE's [Office of Educator Talent](#) with any questions.

## Recognition Opportunities

### 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. Contact [Anne Marie Milligan](#) with any questions or to submit an educator recognition opportunity not listed.

## News From Our Partners

### Keep Indiana Learning: Register Now for MidCon Events

Join Keep Indiana Learning and the Indiana Middle Level Educators Association for four free virtual events on the [Road to MidCon](#). These virtual sessions throughout this semester will focus on the

adolescent brain, classroom pedagogy, social development, and leadership. Registration is also open for [MidCon 2024](#), a two-day, in-person summer learning conference geared towards middle school educators. Contact [Keep Indiana Learning](#) with additional questions.

### The PATINS Project: Basics of Assistive Technology (AT) Team Development and Evaluations

Join the PATINS Project on Thursday, January 18, at 3:30 p.m. ET to learn about how AT teams can benefit your school. This session is intended for corporation/school staff who would like to develop or update their AT team. Each team will find direction in producing policies, procedures, and forms that fit their unique needs. [Register](#) in advance for this session and visit the [PATINS Project website](#) for more information. Contact the [PATINS Project](#) with additional questions.

### National Youth Science Camp (NYSCamp): Application for 2024 Session Now Open

[Applications are now available](#) for high school juniors and seniors in the classes of 2024 and 2025 to represent Indiana at the [2024 NYSCamp](#), an all-expenses-paid program, from Saturday, June 29, through Saturday, July 20. Hosted in Monongahela National Forest in West Virginia since 1963, the NYSCamp is a residential science, technology, engineering, arts, and mathematics (STEAM) program designed to honor and challenge some of the nation's rising STEAM leaders and provide them with opportunities to engage with STEAM professionals and participate in exciting outdoor activities. The NYSCamp is offered to selected participants at no cost—including meals, housing, and transportation—so that talented students may attend regardless of their financial ability. [Applications](#) are due by 11:59 p.m. ET on Thursday, February 29. Contact NYSCamp Director [Kiona Y. Meade](#) with additional questions.

### Nutrition Education Resources American Dairy Association Indiana (ADAI)

The National Dairy Council Fuel Up Learning Plan includes free resources aligned with National Health Education Standards. Each of the four units includes a lesson plan, activities and assignments, handouts, and vocabulary. Topics such as environmentally sustainable agricultural practices, how foods relate to gut health, and the connection between wellness and the practice of healthy eating are highlighted. Learn more [here](#). Contact [Fuel Up](#) with additional questions.

### Register for the 2024 Teach Indy Educators Conference

Join the Teach Indy team at the 2024 Teach Indy Educators Conference at the Ivy Tech Community College Culinary and Conference Center on Saturday, March 2. This conference will enhance teachers' expertise, share best practices, amplify educator voices, and help teachers seize the opportunity to learn best practices, network, and grow pedagogical skills. All current and aspiring educators are welcome! [Register here](#) and contact the [Teach Indy team](#) with questions.

### Upcoming Dates



Monday, January 8	<a href="#">Station Rotation Model: Grades 6-12</a>
Tuesday, January 9	<a href="#">ILEARN Checkpoints Pilot Q&amp;A</a>
Tuesday, January 9	<a href="#">WIDA Standards Spotlight: Language Expectations</a>
Wednesday, January 10	<a href="#">Digital Learning Grant Success Stories</a>
Wednesday, January 10, from 3 to 4 p.m. ET	<a href="#">WIDA Pre-Testing Q&amp;A session</a>
Tuesday, January 16	<a href="#">Flipped Instruction: Grades K-5, English/Language Arts and Math</a>
Tuesday, January 16	WIDAACCESS Testing Window Opens
Wednesday, January 17	<a href="#">SAT State-Allowed Accommodations (SAAs)</a>

Thursday, January 18	<a href="#">The Hidden Potential of the Science of Reading: Screening and Instructing Language in Early Childhood</a>
Thursday, January 18	<a href="#">ILEARN Checkpoints Pilot Q&amp;A</a>
Thursday, January 18, at 10 a.m. ET	<a href="#">Official SAT Practice Webinar</a>
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Wednesday, January 31	<a href="#">New Year, New You: Tech Tools for 2024 - AI Edition</a>
Wednesday, January 31	<a href="#">Keeping Kids Healthy During the Winter Months</a>
Wednesday, January 31	Next Generation Hoosier Educators Scholarship and Next Generation Hoosier Minority Educators Scholarship Applications Due
Monday, February 5	<a href="#">ILEARN U.S. Government Standards/Cut Score Confirmation Committee Applications Due</a>
Thursday, February 29, at 11:59 p.m. ET	<a href="#">NYSCamp Applications Due</a>
Saturday, March 2	<a href="#">2024 Teach Indy Educators Conference</a>

## Additional Resources

- [Educator Licensing](#)
- [Educator Supply/Demand Marketplace](#)
- [Get Your Teach On Indiana](#)
- [Indiana Learning Lab](#)
- [Indiana Literacy Cadre](#)
- [Indiana STEM Cadre](#)
- [Indiana Teacher of the Year](#)
- [Teachers Who Shaped Us Video Series](#)



## Department News

- **12/29/2023** More Indiana Students are Graduating from High School
- **12/05/2023** Data Show Too Many Indiana Students Advancing to Fourth Grade Without Foundational Reading Skills
- **11/21/2023** Indiana Department of Education Announces Recipients of Competitive Science of Reading Grant
- **11/16/2023** Indiana Department of Education Earns National Recognition for Educational Leadership and Impact

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