



# TRANSFORMING K-12 EDUCATION IN INDIANA

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Since 2021, the Indiana Department of Education (IDOE) has worked to transform K-12 education through numerous high-impact tactics.



## Secured a historic literacy investment (\$170 million), focused on science of reading.

This investment allowed IDOE to deploy a number of comprehensive, strategic solutions aimed at achieving Indiana's goal of 95% of third graders reading by 2027. Literacy rates have now increased for *three consecutive years*, and 2024 represents the **largest-ever single-year increase** since the start of IREAD in 2013. Below are just a few examples of our continued work to ensure more students learn to read:

- **Indiana Literacy Cadre:** Provides early elementary teachers with embedded instructional coaching and support aligned with science of reading practices.
  - Cohort 1 (2022): 41 schools | Cohort 2 (2023): 199 schools | Cohort 3 (2024): 489 schools
  - Goal: 600 schools (60%) through Cohort 4 (2025)
- **Indiana Learns:** Provides \$1,000 grants towards learning support and tutoring services to students and families, regardless of their ability to pay.
  - Over 20,000 students have enrolled, and nearly 180,000 hours of tutoring have been provided.
- **Indiana Learning Lab:** One-stop-shop providing educators and families with instructional resources, professional development opportunities, and other best practices.
  - Saw an increase of over 69,000 users since 2021 (6,000 users in 2021, over 75,000 today).
- **IREAD at Second Grade:** Provides access to an early "On Track indicator" for parents/families and teachers to determine if students will master foundational reading skills by the end of third grade.
  - School Participation: 385 in spring 2022; 771 in spring 2023; and 1,076 in spring 2024.
- **Science of Reading Modules:** Online modules were developed to provide additional science of reading training.
  - Over 6,300 educators have completed this training to date, earning 25 Professional Growth Plan (PGP) points.



## Rethinking high school to ensure greater flexibility and seamless transitions post-graduation.

During the 2024 legislative session, Indiana sunset current graduation requirements, allowing IDOE and SBOE to develop a more innovative, future-focused approach to prepare our students for employment, enrollment, or enlistment leading to service.

- The three areas of focus consist of increasing flexibility in diploma requirements, while maintaining rigor, increasing access to high-quality work-based learning, and increasing access to credentials of value before high school graduation.



## Developed the *Profile of a Graduate* using five key characteristics that represent an Indiana Graduate Prepared to Succeed (GPS).

Characteristics include academic mastery; career and postsecondary readiness - credentials and experiences; communication and collaboration; work ethic; and civic, financial, and digital literacy.



## Re-envisioning how we measure school and student performance through Indiana GPS.

This dashboard, launched one and a half years ahead of the statutorily-required deadline, provides students and stakeholders with learner-centered, future-focused data that displays how our students are building the necessary knowledge and skills for success.

- Indiana GPS has been highlighted nationally on multiple occasions and earned a national award in 2023 for educational leadership and impact.





**Incentivized the work that truly moves the needle for students.**

- Literacy Achievement Grants: Awards cash stipends to teachers, instructional coaches, and other school staff who are responsible for the implementation and delivery of early literacy and reading instruction.
- Academic Performance Grants: Provides schools with incentive funding for students earning an Associate degree, credential of value, or the Indiana College Core.



**Expanded learning options for Hoosier students and families.**

- Worked with the Indiana General Assembly and Governor Holcomb to increase K-12 education funding by approximately \$1.8 billion from FY 2019 to FY 2025, supporting all school types, including traditional public, charter, and non-public schools.
- Implemented the largest expansion of Choice Scholarship eligibility in state history, removing financial barriers to students accessing quality educational opportunities that better meet their interests.
  - The Choice Scholarship had approximately 43,000 recipients in fall 2021, and approximately 69,000 recipients in fall 2023.
- Provided implementation support for the creation of Indiana’s Education Scholarship Account (ESA) program, which empowers each and every student to tailor their education experience to their unique needs.
- Implemented the first-in-the-nation Career Scholarship Accounts (CSAs) program designed to support the completion of credentials of value and quality work-based learning experiences, including modern youth apprenticeships.



**Redesigning school accountability.**

Indiana GPS provides a platform for school performance reports, as well as other features that benefit educators, parents and families, and community leaders. Per statute, IDOE will provide the General Assembly with future accountability recommendations by December 1, 2024.



**Streamlined Indiana Academic Standards by more than 25%.**

In order to ensure students are honing in on essential content, IDOE brought together content-area experts, educators, as well as parents and families to review the current standards and determine appropriate, optimal streamlining.



**Redesigning Indiana’s largest assessment as a through-year vs. summative model.**

The ILEARN through-year assessment will include three checkpoints and a shortened summative assessment at the end of the year, allowing educators to provide targeted interventions for students who are working toward key subject area milestones.

- Over 1,340 schools have opted in to pilot the summative assessment in the 2024-2025 school year.



**Created a comprehensive teacher supply and demand marketplace.**

This free tool tracks vacancies, matches teachers with open positions, and helps recruit new teachers. The average district now has access to over 2,000 new candidates.

- To date, the majority of school corporations and charter schools have opted-in to use the full marketplace.



**Created I-SEAL (special education), I-TELL (English learner), and I-STEM (science, technology, engineering, and math) to address teacher shortages in high-need areas of expertise.**



- **I-SEAL** streamlines the required coursework for teachers to earn full special education licensure. The program provides financial assistance and scholarships to educators while they complete the coursework.
  - Over 1,100 participants are currently enrolled, and nearly 600 have completed the program.



- **I-TELL** funds tuition, books, and material fees for current educators/bachelor degree holders to complete coursework leading to English as a New Language (ENL) licensure.
  - Nearly 300 participants are currently enrolled, and over 200 have completed the program.



- **I-STEM** provides free tuition and books to eligible candidates for STEM areas. Additional stipends are also available to incentivize employment in rural districts.
  - Over 1,100 participants are currently enrolled, and over 375 have completed the program.

