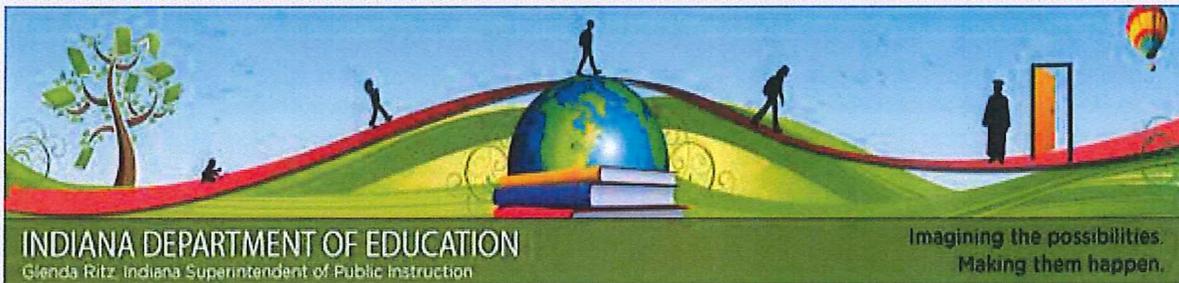


From: Samantha Hart on behalf of DOE Communications
Sent: Tuesday, February 24, 2015 8:08 AM
Subject: FW: DOE Dialogue 02-23-15

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Weekly Message from Superintendent Ritz

February 24, 2015

ISTEP UPDATE

Last Week, the Indiana Department of Education issued guidance to local schools regarding the administration of the spring, 2015 ISTEP+. The guidance details how the Department of Education has shortened the ISTEP+ by 3 hours and 5 minutes for all students throughout the state. A copy of the guidance can be found here: <http://ow.ly/JkLqK>.

In addition, the Department also provided guidance to schools regarding the administration of the Social Studies portion of the ISTEP+. Schools will not be administering the 30-minute Social Studies sessions during Part I of the ISTEP+ in grades 5 and 7. However, there will be a local option to administer Part II of Social Studies. This flexibility has been given in response to requests from some schools to test Social Studies so that data can be incorporated into educator evaluations.

In addition, within the memoranda section below, there are two memos from the Director of Assessment. The [first memo](#) is based on field questions we have received in the last week. The [second memo](#) is regarding current 4th grade students and ISTEP options for those that may have been impacted by the third grade IREAD.



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State of the Classroom

Please tune into WFYI on Feb. 26 at 9 PM to watch my State of the Classroom broadcast.

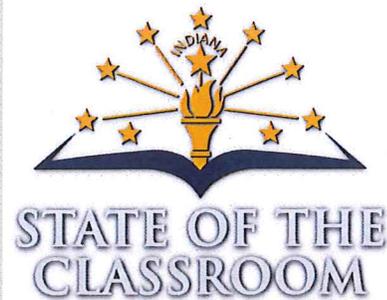
The State of the Classroom is a collaboration between Indiana Department of Education, WFYI and Indiana Public Broadcasting Stations and examines the lives of students surviving in crisis and asks the critical questions: "Who is there for these children?" and "How can we all help?" Using compelling on-location footage coupled with in-depth discussions with experts in the field of youth education, the State of the Classroom seeks to provide answers.

Share this invitation with those in your school community. I've attached a [statewide broadcast schedule](#) of the public broadcast stations through out the state. Click on the logo next to my message to view the broadcast video.

Have a great week!

Sincerely,

Glenda Ritz, Superintendent of Public Instruction



ESEA Flexibility Waiver Related News

U.S. Department of Education announced to states with an approved ESEA Flexibility Waiver, that they can request a three-year renewal to extend their ESEA Flexibility Waiver through the 2017-2018 school year. States will have until March 31, 2015 to submit their extension request to the U.S. Department of Education.

At close of business today, February 23, 2015 we invite you and your communities to provide comment on the Indiana Department of Education flexibility application. The draft is broken into 4 sections for easy review and comment.

Principle 1-College and Career Ready Expectation for All Students

Principle 2- State Developed Systems of Differentiated Recognition, Accountability and Support

Principle 3- - Supporting Effective Instruction and Leadership

Stakeholder and Community Engagement

Please share the news of this feedback opportunity in your school communities via your newsletters and locally designed outreach means. The online feedback window will remain open until midnight on March 8, 2015.

If you have any questions, please contact Federal Relations Director Jeff Coyne at jcoyne@doe.in.gov.

IDOE Memoranda

The Indiana Department of Education is once again providing corporations and nonpublic/charter/Choice schools with an opportunity to request Grade 4 ISTEP+ testing for students who are in a fourth grade classroom but did not pass IREAD-3 and did not receive a good cause exemption. Students eligible for this option are those who have been receiving fourth grade instruction and who may have been identified previously to participate in the Spring 2015 Grade 3 ISTEP+ because they did not pass IREAD-3 during the 2013-2014 school year. Please see the [attached memorandum](#) for details.

ISTEP+ Spring 2015 Update, As you know, there have been many changes regarding the Spring 2015 ISTEP+ administration. Please carefully review the following details and please contact the Office of Student Assessment if you need assistance by calling 317-232-9050 (Toll Free: 888-544-7837) or via email istep@doe.in.gov. Please see the [attached memorandum](#)

Accountability Model Input Opportunity, The State Board of Education approved initial rule language for A-F Accountability on January 7, 2015. The rule language will now be presented to stakeholders through public hearings and website display to allow for public comment. Public hearings are scheduled as follows:

- February 25, 2015, at 9:00 a.m., at the Evansville Vanderburgh School Corporation, Administrative Building, Board Room, 951 Walnut Street, Evansville, Indiana, 47713
- February 26, 2015, at 9:00 a.m., at Marion High School, Board Room #4-4, 750 West 26th Street, Marion, Indiana, 46953
- February 27, 2015, at 9:00 a.m., at the Indiana Government Center South Building, Conference Room C, 302 West Washington Street, Indianapolis, Indiana, 46204.

Public comments may be submitted to the Board until close of business on March 13, 2015. More details on model can be found [here](#).

Food and Nutrition Service, FNS national office has created some terrific short videos on the USDA Summer Food Service Program. The videos, now posted on YouTube, were done in partnership with several Northeast Region summer meals sponsors. One video, "Why We Serve Summer Meals" gives a general overview of the program; the other three focus on a particular best practice. They may be useful in meetings and presentations about the SFSP. Here are the individual links:

- Cops N Kids and Summer Meals - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-TXQ1zIZ0k4>
- Food Truck & Serving Adults with Summer Meals - https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ctqzZn_LQm4
- Getting Teens Involved with Summer Meals - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5A5KOqsVels>
- Why We Serve Summer Meals - https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=U_93W0U3E8U

The videos are also saved into a "Summer Meals Shorts" playlist, so you can send all of them out at once at this link: <https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLBccton6gOdp0d5YdliI3TtReSDtCdmzH>

The Career Specialist Permit is a new licensing option under REPA 3 for individuals interested in secondary (5-12) teaching. Individuals who are currently being issued a CSP should regularly refer to our website at <http://www.doe.in.gov/licensing> as we will be adding approved pedagogy component programs once they gain board approval. Anyone interested in seeking approval for a pedagogy component or would like more information about the review process should contact Scott Bogan, Coordinator of Educator Preparation, at sbogan@doe.in.gov or 317.232.9178.

2015 Summer School Program, the [attached information](#) for the 2015 summer school program that includes details regarding eligible reimbursable programs, required reporting, financial provisions, and