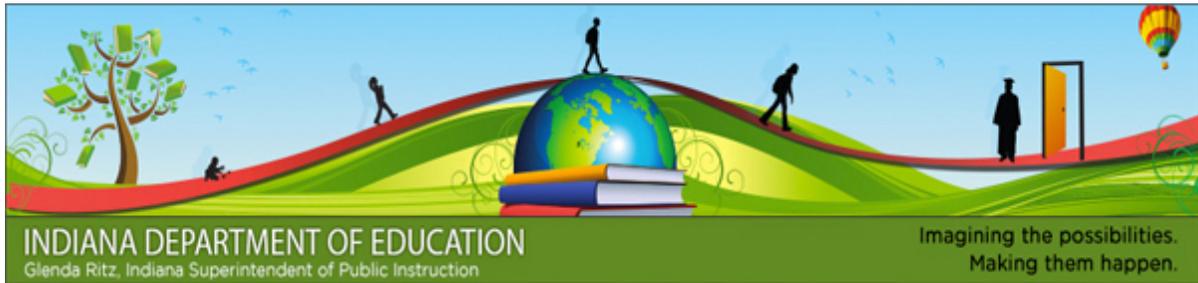


Message from Superintendent Ritz

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Weekly Message from Superintendent Ritz August 15, 2016

As we kick off the start of this school year, I would like to remind you of some resources that we have available through the [IDOE's Hoosier Family of Readers program](#). Through the end of this year, IDOE is offering all Indiana students access to thousands of books through myOn reader for free. As part of our bicentennial goal, we are over halfway to reaching our goal of 2,000,000 books read by the end of the year.

The Hoosier Family of Readers will also be at the Indiana State Fair. We will have a booth, and we will be distributing hundreds of free books to students. Please stop by and pick some up for you and your child.

Finally, I'd encourage you to please read the latest IDOE memoranda in this issue of the DOE Dialogue. We have important updates this week on the Zika virus, School Improvement Plans and Free and reduced Price School Meals.

Have a great week!

Glenda Ritz, NBCT
Indiana Superintendent of Public Instruction



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ESSA Flexibility Waiver Related News

NEW - This week, the U.S. Department of Education issued guidance to SEAs and LEAs regarding provisions under ESSA for supporting homeless youth. You can find the guidance and fact sheet [here](#).

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



Through the Hoosier Family of Readers initiative, students and their families across the state have unlimited access to reading material on [myON](#).

IDOE Memoranda

NEW - School Improvement Plan (SIP) and Student Achievement Plan (SAP) Submission Per P.L. 221, all Indiana public schools must annually submit a school improvement plan. School Improvement Plans (SIP) for SY 16-17 will be due October 1, 2016. For Focus/Priority Schools, Student Achievement Plans (SAP) are also due October 1, 2016. Please see the [attached memorandum](#) for further guidance for schools to submit the SIP/SAP through DOE Online or [AdvancED](#).

NEW - Zika Virus Updates and Resources - There are several viruses that can be spread by mosquito bites such as dengue, chikungunya and the Zika virus. IDOE has a [Zika Virus Prevention webpage](#) that houses resources for schools and school districts to use as a reference for preventing the spread of these diseases.

NEW - Guidelines for Free and Reduced Price School Meals - IDOE announced household size and income guidelines for free and reduced price meals or free milks for students unable to pay full price under the National School Lunch, School Breakfast, and Special Milk Programs. [You can view eligibility guidelines on our website](#).

NEW - \$2 Teacher Appreciation Tuesday - If you visit the Indiana State Fair this year, you may notice that IDOE is sponsoring "\$2 Teacher Appreciation Tuesday." [We also have a coupon for a free milkshake for teachers at the Dairy Barn](#).

ECA Rescore Window Opens The ECA Spring Rescore window is open from today, July 25, 2016 through August 12, 2016. Parents/Guardians can [visit this link](#) and login to begin the rescore process. We have also attached a [Quick Reference Guide](#) for parents/guardians that you may share. If a parent/guardian has misplaced a username or password information, needs technical assistance or would like to be walked through the rescore process, customer support can be reached at 877-424-0322 or ECASupport@questarai.com.

High School Diplomas - HEA 1219 became effective on July 1, 2016. The bill made two revisions to [high school graduation requirements](#):

- All high schools must offer students the opportunity to earn any type of state diploma approved by the State Board of Education.
- A school corporation cannot require a student with a disability to complete locally required credits that exceed state credit requirements to receive a diploma unless otherwise required as part of the student's individualized education program.

If you have additional questions, please contact Jenny Berry at jberry@doe.in.gov.

Teachers' Toolbox, The College and Career Readiness Division (CCR) is excited to release

its [new edition](#) of the Teachers' Toolbox. Teachers' Toolbox is a content focused resource for classroom instruction. Past and current editions of Teachers' Toolbox can be found on the [Teachers' Toolbox website](#).

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Professional Development

NEW - Bicentennial during the 2016-2017 school year, 4th Graders, This is a great opportunity for 4th Grade Classrooms during the first school semester. The Indiana State House Tour Office, in conjunction with the Indiana Center for the Book, holds an essay competition to commemorate Indiana Statehood Day each year. Indiana's 200th birthday is December 11, 2016. Winners of the essay contest are honored at a Statehood Day Celebration at one of four participating locations in downtown Indianapolis.

For more information, visit the essay website at: <http://www.in.gov/library/statehood.htm>. Our theme this year is Bicentennial and Beyond! How did the Bicentennial change you? What is next for Indiana?

National Alliance for Concurrent Enrollment Partnerships (NACEP) 2016 National Conference in Louisville, KY. October 16-18, 2016, Louisville, KY For Information please visit the [NACEP website](#).

Indiana State Library's INSPIRE Digital Literacy Resource, [INSPIRE](#) has licensed TeachingBooks.net - a service that enhances your literacy work with instructional and primary source materials about the books and authors your students are reading. To learn more register for INSPIRE Webinars covering a variety of topics including Indiana reading lists, cross curricular resources and more. For more information about this resource, visit [the Teaching Books website](#).

Indiana Education Service Centers offer a variety of professional development opportunities. To learn more about professional learning opportunities in your area, visit the website of an Education Service Center in your area.

- [Region 8 Education Service Center](#)
- [Central Indiana Education Service Center](#)
- [Northwest Indiana Education Service Center](#)
- [Southern Indiana Education Service Center](#)
- [East Central Indiana Education Service Center](#)
- [West Central Indiana Education Service Center](#)
- [Wabash Valley Education Service Center](#)
- [Wilson Education Center ESC Region 2](#)

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Legislative & Policy Updates

For updates, check out our [Facebook](#) page and follow us on [Twitter](#).

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Information from Other Agencies

NEW - Dear Indiana School Teachers: It is "Back to School" time, start off the year with a memorable educational fieldtrip to the 2016 Indiana State Fair. The Indiana State Fair Fieldtrips are an opportunity for Classroom and Home Educators to enhance curriculum by utilizing an educational experience that cannot be accomplished in the classroom setting. New this year, educators will be able to create a unique self-guided fieldtrip experience by selecting from participating exhibits at the Fair. Educators will be equipped with activities and ideas that can build upon the students' exploration and interaction at the Indiana State Fair. Fieldtrips require pre-registration and 15 or more students to participate. Learn more at the [Indiana State Fair Website](#).

[This week on The Friday Zone](#) - Meet a 2nd grade class that is learning lessons in American Sign Language. Students will explain how it's working and teach signs that anyone can use. The Friday Zone is a weekly program on Indiana PBS stations that uses hands-on demonstrations to teach children in grades K-2 principles drawn from state educational

standards. Check your local station for times. [Get free PBS KIDS app cards](#) by completing our viewer survey at fridayzone.org.

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