Indiana Superintendent of the Year for 2018. The Indiana Association for Public School Superintendents is proud to announce that Dr. Wendy Robinson, Superintendent of Fort Wayne Community Schools, has been named the Indiana Superintendent of the Year for 2018. Dr. Robinson has been Superintendent of Fort Wayne Community Schools since 2003 and previously served the district as assistant principal, principal, area administrator, assistant superintendent and deputy superintendent. In all, she has more than 30 years of experience as a school administrator. IASP is proud to congratulate Dr. Wendy Robinson on this prestigious honor!

Fall Professional Development from ISBA. The Legal Staff of the Indiana School Boards Association is doing a Fall tour on the topic of Student Discipline. For locations and registration, click here.

October is National Principals Month. Every day, the leadership and hard work of principals advances the success of schools, educators, and students nationwide. That is why NAESP, the National Association of Secondary School Principals, and the American Federation of School Administrators have designated October 2017 as National Principals Month. Thanks for all the hard work you do on behalf of students across our great state! Stay tuned for details on an Indiana announcement in regard to a state recognition!

Faces of Pre-K Indiana Institute. Partnerships for Early Learners, a division of Early Learning Indiana is hosting the first-ever institute focused on Pre-K on November 3rd, in Indianapolis at the Crowne Plaza, Downtown Union Station. This institute is recommended for anyone teaching, leading, developing teachers and leaders, or interested in Pre-K for Indiana across all program types. Our content strands are Leadership, Instructional Practice, and Family Engagement.

You will not want to miss our Keynote speaker, Dr. Walter Gilliam, Director of the Edward Zigler Center in Child Development and Social Policy, at Yale University. His research is informing and changing the practices we use in early childhood settings. Click on the link to review this event and consider attending. Registration is open! Please share it with your teacher and administrator colleagues and please feel free to contact me with any questions!

generationOn Indiana Updates

Learning to Give Website Updates

• TeachOne for Giving Tuesday with lesson plans to inspire giving and service - Each featured one-session lesson that is adaptable K-12 sparks meaningful discussions and service that centers on giving, sharing, and caring. TeachOne in your classrooms and rally others in your building to TeachOne on or before GivingTuesday, Nov. 28, 2017.

• Learning to Give 2017-2017 mini-grant application is open. Start with a LTG lesson and inspire student action to address a community need. The LTG mini-grants range from $250-$1000 with a simple, yet competitive application process and priority is given to those who use social media to share their plans, discuss ideas, and reflect. Check here for the link.

• Blog by generationOn Indiana Educational Consultant, Beth Smith, “Service-Learning and Philanthropy Education in the Special Education Curriculum = A Formula for Success”. Service-learning and philanthropy education provide a rich environment for teaching and strengthening skills important for students with special needs: social/emotional skills, academic skills, functional skills, and transition skills. Students with disabilities may work best with alternative and authentic methods of instruction and assessment.

generationOn Website Updates

• New website look - Click the Menu button on the top left of the main page to see all the FREE resources that are available to teachers and students. Service project ideas and plans in 13 different issue areas - Animals, Environment, Hunger, Senior Citizens, Military/Veterans, Bullying/Tolerance, Social Justice, Education/Literacy, Health/Wellness, Homelessness/Poverty, Emergency Prep & Response, Citizenship & Civic Engagement, and Peace & Kindness.

• Service-learning templates and explanation of the six stages of service-learning to use as a teaching and learning strategy.

• Join at NO COST on the generationOn website to be added to our genOn IN database.

• Register your school here.

Reminders: genOn IN is continuing to offer FREE service-learning PD to our registered genOn Schools all over the state. Contact our genOn IN Consultant, Beth Smith, for more information and schedule a training. Also, available to registered genOn Educators are our genOn IN $250 mini-grants to support a service-learning project at your school. Contact Joan for more information.

Thank you for continuing to share these resources with your staff and I encourage any administrator and teacher to register on generationOn to be connected to our grant funded genOn IN program, facilitated by IASP and IMLEA. More information about genOn IN, generationOn, and Learning to Give can also be found on the genOn IN pages on the IASP website and the IMLEA website. Questions: Contact Joan Belschwender, genOn IN Director. Phone: 317-891-9900 x201. Office in the IASP building, Indianapolis.
School Climate Audits. Remember, IASP, using our Principals Service Corps (PSC), offers climate audits to schools and corporations. Please email Tim McRoberts tmcroberts@iasp.org for more information and pricing options.

**IASP Membership Renewal:** Renew now for 2017-18 to keep our communications coming to you. Remember, online renewal is easy and helps keep us connected.

**State Board of Accounts Workshop Registration.** Register today for this important workshop geared toward Extra Curricular Account (ECA) Treasurers. The session presents material (forms, retention, credit card, payable, free/reduced, etc.) and has time for questions and answers. You may get more information and register with this link.

**Assistant Principals Conference.** Mark your calendars. The annual conference for Indiana Assistant Principal will be held November 17 & 18, 2017 at the Downtown Marriott in Indianapolis. Two National keynote speakers highlight the conference which also includes four rounds of concurrent sessions plus a revamped cracker barrel session on Saturday. You can access more information and register here. Sign up today to take advantage of the “Early Bird Fee.”

**Fall Professionals Conference.** November 19-21, 2017 will be the dates for our Fall Conference at the Indianapolis Downtown Marriott. Three keynotes by national speakers, Legal Updates and Superintendent of Public Instruction, Dr. Jennifer McCormick highlight our three day agenda. Five rounds of concurrent sessions, district meetings, plus our Principal of the Year banquet will provide many opportunities to connect and learn with colleagues from around our great state. Conference details and registration information can be accessed by clicking on this link.

### District Meetings

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**IASP Affiliates:**
- IMLEA
- GenerationOn
- Riley Children’s Foundation
- IASP Kids
- Caring & Sharing

Schoolhouse News, IASP, 11025 East 25th Street, Indianapolis, IN 46229 www.iasp.org
Accountability Transition. As Indiana transitions to a new statewide assessment and new accountability system over the next year, it will continue to utilize the current statewide A-F accountability system as outlined in state board rule 511 IAC 6.2-10, through the 2017-18 school year. Schools will receive an A-F letter grade in the fall of 2018 based on the metrics outlined here. This A-F letter grade will be utilized for all official state purposes, including choice scholarship eligibility and identification for state board intervention.

Additionally, to ensure compliance with new federal requirements, Indiana will report the information required within the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) for the 2017-18 school year. These federal metrics will be used to identify schools for federal comprehensive and targeted supports and improvements. Further information on these proposed metrics may be found here.

This transitional year (2017-18) provides fairness and allows schools time to adjust to new accountability metrics that have yet to be finalized under the state board rule-making process. Furthermore, it ensures the State takes the time necessary to craft the best possible accountability model with input from all key stakeholders. Based on our current information, beginning in the 2018-19 school year, Indiana will return to a single accountability model that exclusively uses the finalized metrics that align with the requirements of ESSA.

The Department will provide further guidance for schools on this matter and will notify the field when this information is available.

Timeline Summary:
- 2016-17: State A-F grade based on current standards
- 2017-18: State A-F grade based on current standards and federal calculation based on ESSA standards
- 2018-19: State A-F grade based on ESSA standards

WE NEED YOU! ILEARN Development Committees: To participate in the ILEARN test development process, please complete this survey. The survey closes on September 29. Once surveys have received administrator approval, educators become eligible to participate in assessment committees. Please review this memo for more information about assessment committee work. The duration of most committees is 1-2 days in length, and the committees will meet later this fall.

NAEP: Time Spent at Home Discussing School Studies. This week, the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) provided Indiana student data that compares student group scores based on the amount of time they spend discussing their school studies at home. All data collected from NAEP is compiled and reported at the state level. ‘Time Spent at Home Discussing School Study’ outcomes can be found in the NAEP Community in the Learning Connection under NAEP 2018>Contextual Data. If you are already a member, you can click here for the reports. For more information, please contact Mark O’Malley.

ISTEP+ Winter Retest DOE-TL Guidance. The DOE-TL collection window for the ISTEP+ Grade 10 Winter Retest is open from September 18-29. The 2018 DOE-TL layout is available for download in the IDOE Data Collection community in Learning Connection. Please carefully read this memo.

Office of Title Grants and Support. The 2016-17 Title I Staffing Report, which utilizes your DOE Online Credentials, is now open. It will close on October 27. Each LEA who receives Title I, Part A funding in 2016-17 must submit the report regarding Title I Funded Staff. For questions, please contact Dwayne Marshall.

UPDATE - Regional and Teacher/Community Meeting. A combined Regional and Teacher/Community Meeting has been added in Southern Indiana. The meeting will be held on Thursday, October 5 from 7:00-8:30 p.m. ET. Attendees for this meeting include administrators, teachers, school board members, school business officials, parents, community stakeholders, and other school personnel. The meeting will be held at the Gibson Southern High School Auditorium in Fort Branch, Indiana. Please visit this page to register for the event.

Office of Special Education. The Office of Special Education publishes a biweekly newsletter filled with updates and information about special education. Click here for the latest news.
**Demonstrating Excellence in the Teaching Domains: Questioning**

Proficiency in questioning and discussion are critical components of teaching excellence. Strong techniques in these areas promote active, inquiry-based learning, which is required if one’s teaching is aligned with 21st century learning standards.

**Restorative Practices Webinar Recording**

This webinar recording will provide attendees with a brief overview of restorative practices for schools as well as specific examples of how to enhance school climate while creating respect, cooperation and responsibility both in and out of the classroom.

**Classroom Voices: Learning Standards in Action**

This video features teacher Aimee Park and her students at Lisle Junior High School demonstrating the Next Generation Science Standards by exploring how light scatters.

**CONTENT PARTNER**

**National Board for Professional Teaching Standards**

Observe National Board Certified teachers exhibiting best practices in the classroom. The clips are set up with pre- and post-observations and include a participant handout, facilitator guide and a plan of action template.
Double Whammy: Indiana Schools Could See Two A-F Grades in 2018
Chalkbeat, September 20, 2017 by Shaina Cavazos

Indiana schools could get two A-F grades in 2018 — one official grade based on state requirements, and a separate calculation based on the new federal Every Student Succeeds Act. The proposal comes as changes in graduation rate calculations and dual credit teacher training have complicated the state’s plan to comply with the new law, which went into effect this school year. There was an opportunity to make adjustments when the plan was introduced in June, but Gov. Eric Holcomb and Indiana education officials endorsed it with few major changes. It’s unclear why separate state and federal grades weren’t considered earlier.

The proposal highlights the pressure Indiana and other states face to quickly adjust to ESSA and changing expectations from Betsy DeVos’ Department of Education. A number of regulations were either thrown out when she came into office or could not be finished in time by the Obama Administration. Indiana, too, saw a dramatic surprise Gov. Eric Holcomb and Indiana education officials endorsed it with few major changes. It’s unclear why separate state and federal grades weren’t considered earlier.

June, but Gov. Eric Holcomb and Indiana education officials endorsed it with few major changes. It’s unclear why separate state and federal grades weren’t considered earlier. The idea to create dual standards was revealed tonight when Ken Folks, chief of governmental affairs for the Indiana Department of Education, spoke with educators and community members at Noblesville East Middle School.

Indiana Graduation Rates Would Plummet Under New Federal Guidelines
Indy Star, September 21, 2017 by Arrika Herron

Indiana’s congressional delegation is seeking a moratorium on federal guidelines that would drastically lower Indiana’s high school graduation rate. Thousands of Indiana diplomas would not count toward Indiana’s graduation rate under new rules put in place by the U.S. Department of Education and the Every Student Succeeds Act, a new federal education law. Indiana’s rate would fall to 76.5 percent, from 89.1 percent, for the 2016 class if the rule had taken effect earlier.

All 11 members of the Indiana delegation — from both houses and both parties — have appealed to the education department to put a freeze on the rule to allow states time to adjust to the new guidelines. The pause would give current juniors and seniors a chance to finish their current diploma tracks without penalty and give lawmakers a chance to make changes to Indiana’s diplomas and for schools to acclimate to them. The delegation sent a letter this week to U.S. Secretary of Education Betsy DeVos.

Applications Open For 10 Pre-K Expansion Counties
StateImpact, September 25, 2017 by Stephanie Wiecchmann

The state-funded preschool pilot program that began with five counties was expanded during the 2017 legislative session for 15 more counties. Now, parents in 10 of those counties can apply for half-year preschool. But all low-income families applying will also have to comply with a new program requirement. A state grant would pay for half or full day preschool for a 4-year-old child beginning next January.

New this year to the state program is a work requirement. Parents or guardians must be working or attending school or an accredited training program. When the requirement was announced in June, Carrie Bale with the By5 Early Childhood Initiative said it would be barrier for some families in the area. “In the first round three years ago, it was an income qualifier — and that was the only qualifier,” Bale says. “With this new round coming out, it’s an income qualifier of 127 percent of poverty, plus the parents have to be working or going to school. That’s going to be our challenge.” If a family receives a state-funded grant, it can send a child to any preschool provider on a state-approved list that offers half-day or full-day classes. An online map on the state’s website shows 10 provider locations in Delaware County and three in Madison County.

Educators to State Officials: ‘Indiana Needs Just One Diploma’
Chalkbeat, September 19, 2017 by Shaina Cavazos

For years, Indiana has been grappling with how to re-imagine high school diplomas. Today, educators made a seemingly simple suggestion to state officials: Condense Indiana’s four-diploma system down to just one. “Indiana needs just one diploma,” said Richard Arkanoff, superintendent for Center Grove schools. “But it’s critically important that we provide students with many multiple pathways to get to that one diploma.” In a community meeting Tuesday night at Noblesville East Middle School, Ken Folks, chief of government affairs at the Indiana Department of Education, said the department is also interested in looking at a single diploma with different “gradations” depending on student needs.

Arkanoff was one of several educators who addressed the graduation pathways committee, led by the Indiana State Board of Education. The group is charged by Indiana lawmakers with creating pathways that will help determine students’ readiness for life after high school. Currently, Indiana students have a single graduation requirement outside of what’s needed to earn a diploma — passing end-of-course exams in math and English. But next school year, that changes. Instead, to graduate, students will need to complete the pathway, which will replace the two tests, and earn a diploma. It’s not yet clear what those pathways will look like.

Many Parents Still Don’t Know About Vouchers, Other School Choice Options
Indy Star, September 20, 2017 by Arrika Herron

Six years into the nation’s largest private school voucher experiment, many parents still don’t know the program exists. About one-third of parents who participated in a recent survey about school choice options in Indiana said they hadn’t heard of the program that gives low- and middle-income families public money to put toward tuition at participating private schools. The survey was sponsored by EdChoice, a nonprofit advocate for greater school choice. It was the third time EdChoice has surveyed parents, but the first time their participant pool included non-private school parents. “In a choice-rich environment, we want to know how everyone feels,” said Drew Catt, the report author. Indiana launched its voucher program, called the Indiana Choice Scholarship, in 2011 with awards available for just 7,500 students. By 2013, the participation cap was removed and the program was expanded to serve more than just the low- and middle-income families it initially targeted.
**Want to Reduce Absenteeism? Consider a Letter**
*The Hechinger Report, September 27, 2017, by Tara Garcia Mathewson*

When Todd Rogers, director of the Student Social Support R&D Lab at Harvard University, started doing research in schools, he found focusing on parents could offer big returns. “Parents get so little information and so little of what they get is useful,” Rogers said. A behavioral scientist at the Harvard Kennedy School, Rogers has completed a number of experiments measuring the impressive effects of simply mailing parents information about how important school attendance is.

Peter Bergman, an assistant professor of economics and education at Teachers College, Columbia University (The Hechinger Report is an independently-funded unit of Teachers College), has done similar experiments texting parents information about their children’s missed assignments, class attendance and grades. He, too, has seen significant results that are easy to replicate. And, perhaps most importantly for schools, it doesn’t cost very much to give parents useful information, and they can be powerful partners in changing student behavior. While few schools are set up to do this, Rogers’ and Bergman’s work shows they should be.

**Tech Firms Donate $300M to K-12 Computer Science**
*The New York Times, September 26, 2017 by Cecilia Kang*

Many of the country’s largest tech companies, including Amazon, Facebook, Google, Microsoft and Salesforce, on Tuesday pledged a total of $300 million for computer science education, part of a partnership with the Trump administration meant to prepare students for careers in technology. The corporate donations follow a White House effort to direct federal money toward teacher training and resources that bolster science, technology, engineering and math, or STEM, education. President Trump on Monday directed the Education Department to put $200 million in grant money toward computer science education.

The partnership between tech companies and the Trump administration comes at a fraught time for Silicon Valley firms, several of which have been criticized by members of Congress who are calling for more regulation of the industry. Many of the companies involved in the computer science initiative have been pushing to increase computer training in schools. Tech companies see the STEM fields, and computer science in particular, as a weakness in American education and have pressed for coding and other classes to be bolstered to keep the United States competitive with nations that are pulling ahead in those areas.

**Text Messages Help Pave Path to College**
*District Administration, September 26, 2017 by Matt Zalaznick*

Text messages are one of the most effective ways to keep high school students on track once they’ve begun the college application and enrollment process. About 1 in 5 high school seniors who enroll in college never show up, and that rate is closer to 40 percent for students of color. To reverse this trend, a range of companies, state agencies and nonprofits now send automated messages before and after college acceptance—a process known as “nudging.”

The texts remind students of important deadlines—such as when to register for the SAT, apply for financial aid and sign-up for campus housing. What makes these messages even more effective is that students can respond with questions and get answers from real life advisors. “Unlike an email, a text captures a student’s attention immediately,” says Jessica Kennedy, who oversees the texting program at West Virginia’s Higher Education Policy Commission until she left the agency in September. “It’s on the device they’re holding—it pings and it flashes and there’s an opportunity to instantly respond.” West Virginia begins texting about 10,000 seniors each September to “keep up a drumbeat of reminders,” says Kennedy.

**College Board Releases Latest SAT Data**
*The Washington Post, September 26, 2017 by Nick Anderson*

The perfect score of yore — 1600 — is back and just as impressive as ever. But many students could be forgiven these days for puzzling over whether their own SAT scores are good, great or merely okay. The first national report on the revised SAT shows the confusion that results when a familiar device for sorting college-bound students is recalibrated and scores on the admission test suddenly look a bit better than they actually are. The average score for the high school class of 2017, according to data the College Board released Tuesday, was a combined 1060 out of 1600: 533 for reading and writing, and 527 for math.

The averages for previous classes, going back a decade, hovered closer to the midpoint of 500 on each portion of the test. But those results came from a different test in a different era, with three separate sections for reading, writing and math, and a maximum score of 2400. Last year, the College Board eliminated the notorious guessing penalty on the SAT, jettisoned some tricky vocabulary and took other steps, hoping to make the test a more straightforward measure of achievement. The board also returned the top score to the iconic number parents and grandparents remember: 1600.

**Report: Nearly All US School Districts Have Broadband**
*Government Technology, September 19, 2017 by Benjamin Heral *

The country’s “extraordinary progress” connecting schools to affordable high-speed internet continued last year, according to a new analysis from broadband-advocacy group EducationSuperHighway. All told, 94 percent of school districts in the country now meet the minimum federal connectivity target, the group wrote in its new report, “2017 State of the States: Fulfilling Our Promise to America’s Students.” That means more than 39 million students and 74,000 U.S. schools now have access to internet speeds of at least 100 kilobits per second, per student.

In addition, EducationSuperHighway found that 88 percent of schools now say they have sufficient classroom access to WiFi, up from just 25 percent in 2013. Still, though, finding affordable broadband remains a challenge for schools in some pockets of the country. “We need to keep our foot on the accelerator,” said Evan Marwell, the group’s CEO. “I’m very confident we can connect the last 6.5 million kids.”
**Grants**

**New Grant Opportunities**

**Advancing Student Achievement, a program of the Actuarial Foundation ASA** grants support math programs that open students’ minds to the practical power of math. The purpose of an ASA grant is to support math enhancement programs that bridge the gap between classroom and real world mathematics. Deadline: Rolling. Amount: up to $5,000 [https://www.actuarialfoundation.org](https://www.actuarialfoundation.org)

**TechPoint Foundation for Youth has $500 Robotics Grants available to any 501c3 that does not already have a VEX IQ Robotics team!** The Robotics Grant includes:
· VEX IQ Robotics Kit
· Project Lead the Way Classroom Activities
· Professional Development Training and ongoing support
· Team Registration Cost

We are looking for enthusiastic educators, who are interested in beginning a robotics team, to apply for the grant. No experience needed.

We have already awarded over 450 grants and we have more available! This grant application is straight forward, easy to complete and there is no catch! This is an amazing and unique opportunity for Indiana schools and we don’t want your school to miss out! [www.techpointyouth.org/apply-for-robot-grant-nonschools/](http://www.techpointyouth.org/apply-for-robot-grant-nonschools/)

**Dollar General Literacy Foundation**

The foundation is accepting applications for its Youth Literacy Grants program. Grants of up to $4,000 will be awarded to schools, public libraries, and nonprofit organizations in support of efforts to help students who are reading below grade level or experiencing difficulty reading, including those with individualized education plans (IEPs).

More info [HERE](#).

**Project Learning Tree** is accepting applications from schools and nonprofit organizations for environmental service-learning projects through its GreenWorks! grants program, which is designed to help students make their schools greener and healthier by, for example, implementing a recycling program, conserving water and energy, improving air quality, or establishing a school garden or outdoor classrooms and integrating these projects into the curriculum.

Grants of up to $1,000 will be awarded to support environmental projects that demonstrate service-learning, exemplify student voice, and involve at least one community partner. To be eligible, projects must secure at least 50 percent in matching funds (in-kind acceptable). [https://www.plt.org/resources/greenworks-grants/](https://www.plt.org/resources/greenworks-grants/)

**Karma for Cara Foundation** encourages kids 18 and under to apply for funds between $250 and $1,000 to complete service projects in their communities. Whether it is turning a vacant lot into a community garden, rebuilding a school playground or helping senior citizens, Karma For Care Foundation wants to hear what kids are passionate about. [http://karmaforcara.org/get-involved/apply-for-a-microgrant/](http://karmaforcara.org/get-involved/apply-for-a-microgrant/)

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**Archived Grant Opportunities**