

Associate Superintendent Report

July 8, 2025

Assessments

ILEARN and IREAD-3 results are finalized (except for ILEARN Science results, which should be finalized later this month), however, the State Board of Education has a public embargo on these results until later this month. Teachers and administrators have been made aware of these results. I plan to provide a full breakdown of the results at the August board meeting and will share access to the data with you as soon as the embargo is lifted. Since other district's scores are still embargoed, I do not have any regional comparison data to share, but I can revisit that in the following months.

Blue Devil Bash

The 2nd Annual Blue Devil Bash is set for Wednesday, August 6th, from 4:00 to 7:00 PM across our school campus. This event primarily serves as our back-to-school open house, giving families a chance to meet teachers, access lockers, and explore building updates before the school year begins.

Building on the success of last year, the Bash will again feel more like a community festival, featuring food trucks, local vendors, team and club fundraisers, games, sign-ups, and family-friendly activities. While we won't have a major attraction like last year's Inferno ribbon-cutting, we still expect a strong turnout as families visit all three buildings. Highlights include:

- The FFA cookout near the Total Seed Production Greenhouse at the high school
- Bounce houses sponsored by TESO in the south elementary parking lot, where most of the activities will take place
- Athletic season ticket sales hosted by TCSC athletics
- Fundraising booths by varsity teams and school clubs
- Touch-a-Truck hosted by local emergency services
- Booths from local businesses and organizations sharing information and giveaways

We look forward to another fantastic evening of school spirit, community connection, and celebration as we kick off the new school year!

New Teacher Orientation

We are looking forward to welcoming our newest educators to the district during our New Teacher Orientation on Monday, July 28. This important event is designed to provide our incoming staff with a strong foundation for success as they join the Tipton Community School Corporation.

The day will begin with a welcome and introduction from Dr. Glaze, followed by a district overview and expectations presented by Mr. Jaworski. New staff will then engage in sessions on school safety protocols with SRO Maddox, technology setup and support with Mr. Gingerich, and an employee benefits overview with Mr. Gonzalez. After that, the Tipton Education Association (TEA) will meet with all the new teachers to explain the benefits of joining the bargaining unit before the group gets to enjoy lunch with the superintendent.

In the afternoon, new hires will take a tour of My Closet, led by Gena Schultz, followed by individual building leadership meetings, mentor teacher introductions, building tours, and, finally, some classroom setup time.

This orientation serves as a critical first step in building relationships, reinforcing district culture, and ensuring a smooth and confident transition into the school year. We are excited to invest in these new team members and help them feel supported and prepared from day one.

Grants and Waivers

High Ability Program Grant

The Indiana High Ability Program Grant provides funding to school districts to support the academic growth of students who demonstrate exceptional abilities in core subjects like math, reading, and language arts. The purpose of the grant is to ensure that high ability students are identified through fair and research-based measures, and that they receive appropriately challenging instruction that meets their advanced learning needs.

Each year, school districts can apply for this grant through the Indiana Department of Education. The funding can be used for a range of supports, such as curriculum development, teacher training, enrichment programs, and services that go beyond the general education classroom. The grant also requires districts to have a written high ability program plan that includes identification procedures, service models, and strategies for professional development.

Overall, the High Ability Program Grant helps ensure that all students—including those performing well above grade level—are engaged, supported, and given opportunities to reach their full potential. We have submitted this grant application and anticipate its approval by the end of the month.

Title Grant Pre-Application

Each year, school districts in Indiana must complete a Title Grant Pre-Application as the initial step in securing federal funding through Title programs such as Title I (support for disadvantaged students), Title II (professional development), Title III (English learner support), and Title IV (student support and academic enrichment). This pre-application is a required process coordinated through the Indiana Department of Education (IDOE) and serves as a planning tool to ensure that federal funds will be used strategically and in compliance with federal guidelines.

The pre-application outlines how we intend to use these funds to support student achievement, improve instructional quality, and provide equitable services. It includes components such as district goals, stakeholder engagement documentation, preliminary budget information, and alignment with broader district plans like our Strategic Plan.

The pre-application must be approved by the state before the district can access or spend any Title funds in the upcoming fiscal year, which begins July 1. It ensures that federal resources are used effectively and transparently to meet the needs of all students, particularly those who are most at risk.

Professional Development

Policy Analytics Conference

This past month, I attended a school finance conference presented by Policy Analytics, focused on the implications of Indiana's Senate Enrolled Act 1 (SEA 1). This session provided valuable insight into the new legal requirements, including that schools must direct at least 62% of state tuition support funding toward classroom instruction-related expenses, as defined by the law, among many other financial topics.

The presentation helped clarify how SEA 1 impacts school budgeting, expenditure classifications, and reporting expectations. We reviewed practical strategies to ensure compliance without compromising operational effectiveness or support services. They also highlighted how SEA 1 may influence future staffing, programming decisions, and the interpretation of "instructional" versus "non-instructional" expenditures. Many school districts across the state are facing some challenging times over the next 7 years, and TCSC is no exception.

Overall, the session was informative and timely. It reinforced the importance of financial planning that not only aligns with state mandates but also continues to prioritize student learning and district goals. We will use this guidance as we prepare upcoming budgets and engage in long-term planning to meet both the letter and the spirit of SEA 1.

INSROA Conference

Each June, Indiana School Resource Officers, administrators, educators, and school safety professionals gather for the INSROA (Indiana School Resource Officers Association) Conference—this year held from June 18 to 20, 2025, at the Blue Chip Casino in Michigan City. Hosted by INSROA, the conference is dedicated to advancing safe learning environments across Indiana by offering high-quality training, fostering strong interagency relationships, and connecting attendees to crucial resources

The main conference sessions, which feature keynote addresses on leadership (including perspectives from retired educators like Frank DeAngelis), legal updates, social media and substance use challenges, and strategies for effective School Resource Officer (SRO) engagement. Breakout workshops cover timely topics—such as adolescent mental health, cyber investigations, collaboration with Internet Crimes Against Children (ICAC), handling eating disorders and substance abuse, and conducting school-based interviews post-incident.

More than 500 participants—including our SRO, and INSROA board member, Dave Maddox—attend annually to build capacity, share best practices, and strengthen school safety in their districts. For TCSC, I was able to receive up-to-date, research-informed training and networking, helping ensure our students and schools remain safe, secure, and well-supported.

2025 Tipton Summer Academy

This summer, we are proud to once again offer the Tipton Summer Academy, a two-day voluntary professional development opportunity designed to support and strengthen the instructional practices of our staff as we prepare for the upcoming school year. The academy reflects our district's commitment to continuous growth, collaboration, and student-centered excellence.

The program will include several focused strands of training. The first major area will be instructional planning, where teachers will work together to refine curriculum maps, align instructional strategies, and develop meaningful learning experiences for students across grade levels and content areas. Another core component will be school safety training, including sessions on the Standard Response Protocols (SRP), Crisis Prevention Institute (CPI) behavioral intervention strategies, and CPR certification—ensuring our staff are well-prepared to maintain a safe and supportive environment for all students.

In addition, the academy will feature a Special Learners Series, which provides targeted training to better serve the diverse needs of our student population. This includes sessions focused on supporting multilingual learners, students receiving special education services, and high ability students, all of whom benefit from differentiated and responsive instruction.

Finally, we will offer a Reading Instruction Series, designed to support teachers at all grade levels with effective, evidence-based reading practices. This training, led by our reading

specialist Jessica Higginbotham, will help ensure that literacy remains a strong foundation of academic success for every student in Tipton Schools.

The Tipton Summer Academy is a meaningful investment in our educators, providing time and space for collaboration, learning, and preparation—all aimed at helping us start the school year strong and unified in our commitment to student success. I welcome and encourage you, if you have the availability, to stop by and check out a session or two. Our staff love to see our board engaged with their work as educators.

Monthly Shout Out

This month I would like to shout out Officer Dave Maddox. As I shared earlier, Officer Maddox currently serves as a board member on the INSROA leadership team. I am grateful he invited me to join him this summer to learn a little more about what his involvement in the SRO community looks like. I can safely say that we are extremely fortunate to have someone as well-respected and knowledgeable as Office Maddox. Not only do we benefit from his experience, but his connections across the state provide us a wide perspective of safety practices that are tried and true. He is a key member of our team and a member of the INSROA board, with some anticipated news coming in the next month.

Officer Maddox will be joining our building principals on the second day of our admin retreat this July to help us develop and improve our safety plans for the upcoming school year. Between Dave and Tom Lyday (our newly appointed school safety specialist), I am confident we have an incredibly strong safety leadership team protecting our students and staff.