

# The Achiever ▶

**myIPS** | Proud to be Public



Teaching & Learning



Efficient Operations



Family & Community

IN THE KNOW



District Spelling Bee is Serious Business for IPS Scholars

FEREBEE'S FINDS



Superintendent Highlights Successes Within District

BOARD PREVIEW



New Three-Tier Transportation Schedule on Board Agenda

ALL STAR



CFI 84 Crossing Guard is an Inspiration to Families

**myIPS**

Let's get hype for  
**Sectionals!**

Help us cheer on our student athletes!



Mens: 1/28



Womens: 1/31 - Mens: 2/28



Womens: 2/2 - Mens: 2/16



## ATTENDANCE MATTERS: BRAG TAG SYSTEM

A national study shows that 6.5 million students miss three or more weeks of school in excused or unexcused absences per year. To counterbalance attendance challenges in our own district, IPS has taken steps to ensure our students are attending school more regularly — including the implementation of incentive-based programs that are showing promise. Starting this school year, IPS introduced Brag Tags into our elementary schools. The colorful, collectible tags are distributed each month to students who show positive attendance behaviors. Since August 2016, students have earned more than 44,000 Brag Tags! IPS is thrilled that our students and their families are actively working to improve attendance throughout the district. We're looking forward to continued growth during second semester!

Source: [attendanceworks.org](http://attendanceworks.org)



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## Teaching & Learning

- More than 60 IPS students will compete in the [IPS District Spelling Bee](#) on Jan. 26 in Anderson Auditorium at Arsenal Technical High School. Some of these scholars are spending hours each day preparing for their chance to move on to the regional and, hopefully, the national bee.
- **What do you enjoy most about reading?** "Reading makes me feel like I'm actually there (in the story)! I love reading." - Megan G., a third-grader at Sidener Academy for High Ability Students.
- Thousands of IPS third-graders stormed Hinkle Fieldhouse to kick off the IPS/NCAA ["Read to the Final Four."](#) The competition-style program, which pits classrooms against each other to see who can log the most minutes reading, is designed to encourage students to develop a love for books.
- IPS Superintendent Dr. Lewis D. Ferebee often spends his days in our district's schools talking to teachers, students and administrators, while also observing what's happening inside our classrooms. In this edition of [Ferebee's Finds](#), he shares a few notes from some of his most recent school visits.



## Efficient Operations

- At the [January Agenda Review and Action](#) sessions, the Indianapolis Public Schools Board of School Commissioners will discuss initiatives to increase equity in school funding, improve transportation services and ensure a variety of opportunities for schools to foster student success.
- According to data from the Indiana Department of Education, Indianapolis Public Schools' [graduation rate](#) for the 2015-2016 school year was 77 percent - an increase from the previous year and the highest rate the district has seen in 10 years.
- As IPS prepares for nominations for its 2018 Teacher of the Year program, the Achiever will highlight the finalists and winner of the 2017 class. This week, we get to know IPS/Butler Laboratory School 60 teacher [Ashlynn Burkhardt](#).
- **IPS in the News:** [Dr. Lewis D. Ferebee](#) sits down for a conversation with The Indianapolis Star to discuss a wide range of topics related to Indiana's largest school district. Enrollment, innovation schools, budgets, teachers/principals and the future of the district were a few topics on the table.



# Family & Community

- [Benny Crawford's](#) infectious high-fives and motivational well wishes bring smiles to everyone who crosses his path. Crawford has been a fixture at the intersection of 57th Street and Central Avenue since 2014 serving as CFI 84's crossing guard, but he has become so much more to the school's students and parents.
- **IPS in the News:** A transformation is happening at [James Whitcomb Riley School 43](#). Strong leadership, community engagement and parent involvement are being cited as reasons for the positive changes at the K-8 school.
- **IPS in the News:** Just weeks before entering high school, Arsenal Technical High School [basketball player Isaac Halvorson](#) endured the toughest moment of his young life - losing his mother. The teenager, however, found the strength to move forward.



Winter Magic Festival  
Jan. 19 thru Jan. 22



2017 Indianapolis Home Show  
Jan. 20 thru Jan. 29



Indy Food Fest  
Jan. 20 thru Jan. 21



In February, The Achiever  
Celebrates Black History Month  
Get to know some of our IPS history makers!