

Children's Coalition of Indiana
Legislative Priorities
2013



Ensure Access to and Quality of State-funded Services For Children, Adolescents and Families



- Create a standing commission on children, providing legislative and policy leaders a venue to study and provide oversight for policies and services related to children.
- Maintain a transparent child welfare system that provides the highest quality settings and services for Hoosier children in need.
- Provide appropriate reimbursement rates for non-profit services providers and adoptive and foster care parents to ensure high quality child, adolescent and family services.
- Offer a full array of accessible services to Hoosier families that will ensure positive financial, physical and mental health, safety and educational outcomes for children.
- Support funding services for Child in Need of Services (CHINS) 6 and strengthen professional reporting of suspected child abuse and neglect cases.

Did you know:

Almost 25% of Hoosier children live in poverty and 43% of kids receive free or reduced lunch.

1,000 juveniles are committed to the Department of Correction annually.

In 2012, just over 13,000 Hoosier children were designated as a Child In Need of Services (CHINS).

Guarantee Access to a Safe, High Quality Early Learning Environment for All Children



- Ensure that all child care providers that receive government funds for their services adhere to the same basic health and safety standards.

Did you know:

An estimated one in six Indiana children are being cared for in unregulated child care.

In Sept. 2011 the Committee on Child Care visited a child care facility that had a ratio of 28 children, infants and toddlers per 1 adult, and this facility has received millions in tax payer dollars over the last several years.

Indiana is one of only 10 states that does not provide some type of state funded pre-kindergarten program.

- Fund and implement a voluntary pilot preschool program utilizing a mixed delivery model for children who will benefit most from a quality preschool experience.
 - Provide access to free full-day kindergarten for all Hoosier children.
 - Maximize available federal dollars to support early childhood development and education.
- Provide developmental screenings from birth to age five, including a standardized kindergarten readiness assessment tool. These screening tools may help educate parents on developmental milestones and increase early interventions to reduce future costs.

Ensure Equal Access to a Quality Education for All Hoosier Children



- Maintain transparency and accountability of policies and procedures related to educational progress and safety for all students, including those learning outside of the traditional school environment.
- Ensure that all schools and educational facilities receiving state funding are compliant with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) or are able to meet the needs of students with mental health or developmental disabilities so that all students are able to access the best possible setting for their academic success.
- Provide all parents with opportunities to fully engage in their children's education options.
- Guarantee that all students who are placed in residential facilities receive defined educational services from the school corporation in which the facility is located.

Did you know:

Indiana's overall 2011 high school graduation rate was 85.7% and 12% of Indiana public high schools had graduation rates less than 80%.

Only 41% of schools in Indiana received a rating of "A" in 2012.

Private schools are not held to the same federal accountability and accessibility standards as public schools.

Create Safe and Nurturing Educational Environments



Did you know:

In 2011:

1 in 20 youth missed school due to fear of safety at school or going to or coming from school.

1 in 4 students report being bullied at school.

1 in 5 children report being bullied electronically.

In 2008:

223 Hoosier teens, ages 15-19, died due to accident, suicide and homicide.

- Embrace a comprehensive evidence-based approach to prevent all forms of peer aggression, including bullying, gangs, dating violence and suicide that provide resources and training to all school personnel and that foster school environments and interactions that promote positive social skill development.
- Create consistent school and state-wide policies that discourage peer aggression and include parental notification in school discipline policies.
- Establish a point-of-contact within the Indiana Department of Education to monitor peer aggression prevention programs and policies and to provide technical assistance to school corporations in implementing policies, intervening in and tracking data related to instances of peer aggression.

Other CCI Areas of Interest

- Juvenile Justice
- Violence Prevention
 - Child Abuse
 - Child Sexual Assault & Exploitation
 - Firearm
- Mental Health
- Healthcare
- Sentencing Reform
- Non-profit Taxation
- Adoption, Kinship Care and Foster Care



20 YEARS OF ADVOCATING FOR ALL HOOSIER CHILDREN:
ADVOCATED FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF RECOMMENDATIONS FROM
THE COMMISSION ON ABUSED AND NEGLECTED CHILDREN IN 1992
AND 2004.

PARTICIPATED IN COLLABORATIVE ADVOCACY EFFORTS, SUCH AS
EXPANSION OF FULL DAY KINDERGARTEN, ALTERNATIVES TO
SUSPENSION AND EXPULSION, CREATION OF THE COMMISSION ON
DISPROPORTIONALITY IN YOUTH SERVICES, EXPANSION OF ELIGIBILITY
FOR HOOSIER HEALTHWISE.

HELD EDUCATIONAL SESSIONS FOR YOUTH-SERVING PROFESSIONALS
AND COMMUNITY MEMBERS REGARDING CHILD-RELATED ISSUES

HELPED CREATE AN INDEPENDENT DEPARTMENT OF CHILD SERVICES
OMBUDSMAN

**MEMBERS OF THE
CHILDREN'S COALITION OF INDIANA**

Adult & Child - Afterschool Coalition of Indianapolis - AYS, Inc. - Boys and Girls Clubs of Wayne County
Children's Bureau, Inc. - Day Nursery Association of Indianapolis, Inc.
Fairbanks Hospital, Inc. - Family Time, Inc. - Family Works, Inc. - Floyd County Youth Services Bureau
Harmony House, CASA - IARCCA An Association of Children and Family Services - Improving Kids' Environment
Indiana Afterschool Network - Indiana Association of United Ways
Indiana Council of Community Mental Health Centers - Indiana Foster Care and Adoption Association
Indiana Juvenile Justice Task Force - Indiana Minority Health Coalition - Jewish Community Relations Council
Marion County Commission on Youth - National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners, Indiana Chapter
National Association of Social Workers, Indiana Chapter - Paddock View Residential Services
Prevent Child Abuse, Indiana - Riley Hospital for Children
SAFY of Indiana (Specialized Alternatives for Family and Youth) - Swanson Center - The Villages
United Way of Central Indiana - Youth Service Bureau, Jay County - Youth Opportunity Center