



MCCOY 2021 Public Policy Agenda

MCCOY PLACES DIVERSITY, EQUITY, INCLUSION, AND JUSTICE AT THE CENTER OF OUR ORGANIZATION'S ADVOCACY EFFORTS.

EARLY CHILDHOOD



- Ensure that all Hoosier children have access to quality childcare and pre-school programs regardless of income or geographic location.
- Require kindergarten attendance and continue to fully fund full-day kindergarten statewide and continue to expand pre-k access for children ages 3-5.
- Provide greater access to developmental and mental health assessments for children ages birth to five and increase training for mental and behavioral health professionals in treatment modalities that reflect best practices for this age group.

EARLY INTERVENTION & PREVENTION



- Monitor changes to the Department of Child Services (DCS) to ensure their focus includes workforce development and retention and supportive, trauma-informed practices in their workplace.
- Make certain that prevention and early intervention programs are available and accessible to youth, individuals, and families who require them before they are in crisis.
- Ensure that pregnant and new mothers have access to pre-natal medical care and support both at home and in the workplace.
- Provide all parents and caregivers with access to resources and services they need to build safe, stable, nurturing environments and relationships for children.

EDUCATION



- Ensure students' basic needs are met while virtually learning; this includes access to expanded broadband internet, digital learning tools, food, and housing support. Provide necessary support to parents and caregivers with additional responsibilities that are required of assisting with virtual learning.
- Prioritize both teacher and student wellness through social, emotional, and mental health support.
- Provide all students access to educational and counseling options that guide them to post-secondary education and career readiness and provide adequate funding to career and technical education opportunities.
- Embrace a comprehensive evidence-based approach to prevent all forms of peer aggression and disruptive behavior, including bullying, gangs, dating violence, and suicide.
- Promote the recruitment and retention of a high-quality teaching workforce with diverse backgrounds.
- Support quality Out-of-School-Time programs that ensure children have safe, enriching environments to address learning loss and/or unsafe behaviors and provide meaningful activities that promote better outcomes and trajectories for children.

WELL-BEING & SAFETY



- Ensure that policies affecting issues of youth safety and well-being are data-driven and reflect a comprehensive, holistic approach to understanding and addressing the root causes of the issues within families, communities, and schools.
- Protect youth who are being trafficked by increasing intervention services for victims and curbing trafficking demands through an elimination of the statute of limitations and increased criminal penalties for adults.
- Support policies that reduce food insecurity and eliminate food deserts in Indiana. Support food distribution initiatives to provide food to children and families.
- Reduce and prevent youth suicide and substance abuse by expanding training in evidence-based prevention and awareness for all youth-serving professionals, expanding the mental health and substance abuse workforce, particularly in rural areas, and improving access to both inpatient and outpatient behavioral health programs.
- Increase funding that will help domestic violence survivors pay for emergent needs upon their release from shelters.

YOUTH JUSTICE



- Reimagine the Indiana youth justice system into a system that utilizes a culturally responsive, trauma-informed developmental approach based on the science of brain development.
- Eliminate zero tolerance discipline policies at the school and state level in favor of graduated codes of discipline aimed at maintaining the student's academic progress and addressing the root causes of disruptive and aggressive behaviors.
- Reduce disparities based on race, ethnicity, gender, ability status, and sexual orientation or gender identity and expression among children and emerging adults in the justice system as well as those who are victims of crime.
- Make sure youth and emerging adults in the justice system maintain supportive relationships and have appropriate guidance and counsel from legal professionals and caregivers.