



Hi, friend!

After four long months, the 2023 Legislative Session has come to an end in the very early hours of this Friday morning as they finalized the State Budget for the next two years. (More on that below.)

I want to send a huge thanks to all of you for following along with us this year and taking action to impact legislation that would support ALL children, families, and youth service providers in our state.

This week was filled with conference committees and then final passage of surviving bills out of the General Assembly and onto Governor Holcomb's desk. Once a bill is sent to the Governor, he has seven days to either sign the bill into law (most common), veto the bill, or let the bill pass into law without his signature.

To see what bills have been sent to Governor Holcomb so far, [check out his "Bill Watch" page](#).

[To see a full list of bills from this year, click here.](#) Note: Any bills listed on the IGA website that are in BLUE font are still alive and likely on their way to Governor Holcomb's desk. Any bills that are in GREY font are dead.

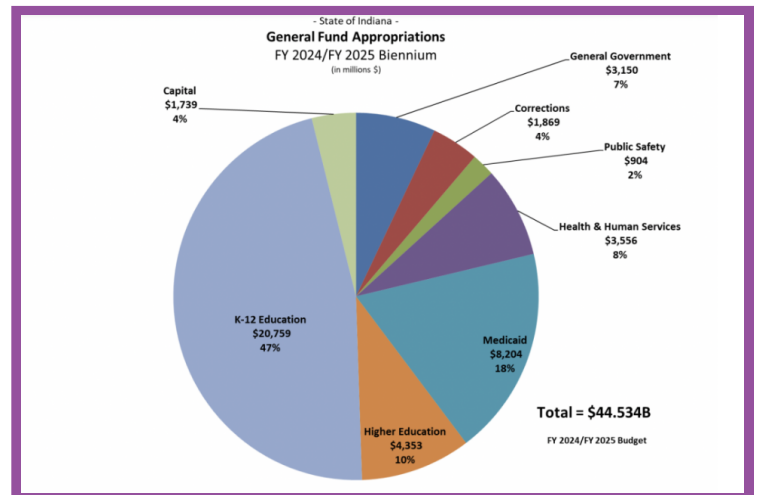
Thank you for being an advocate for children and families. Until next time,

Indiana State Budget for FY2024/2025

The top priority for legislators this year was to pass the [State Budget for the next two years](#). To the right is a breakdown of how State funds have been distributed.

The final version of the State Budget greatly expands the state's private school voucher program, injects significant investments into the mental health response system and public health initiatives and speeds up the pace of individual income tax cuts.

Due to outrage from Public School Officials regarding dismal funding over the next two years, lawmakers did not release a



finalized version of the budget until 9pm on Thursday night and delayed the Legislature's final approval of the budget and the end of this year's legislative session until the wee hours of Friday morning.

In the final budget, per student public education funding increases have improved somewhat to 5.3% in the first year, and 1.8% the next. With the change, schools will see \$8.84 billion for tuition support in fiscal year 2024, and \$9.03 billion in fiscal year 2025.

The state's highest offices still got a [significant pay raise](#) in the final version of the budget—even though the language never got any public vetting during the chaotic final hours.

[Read More on Education Budget](#)

[Read More on Voucher Expansion](#)

SB 415: Juveniles (Admissibility of statement by juvenile in custody.)

This bill will make a statement that is made by a child that has been knowingly lied to by police during an interrogation inadmissible in court.

We support this bill because it will improve relations between law enforcement and the community and also result in fewer wrongful convictions.

MCCOY is pleased to see this bill has passed out of the General Assembly and is on its way to Governor Holcomb to pass into law.

SB 12: Material Harmful to Minors/HB1477 Education Matters

SB 12 proposed to criminalize public school libraries for having material deemed "obscene or harmful to children." It died earlier this legislative session without having been brought for a committee vote in the House.

At MCCOY, we want librarians to feel safe to share books that represent the diverse values and perspectives of our communities in their libraries. We oppose any efforts that could lead to banning books and support the processes already in place for schools and libraries to address book challenges.

Although SB 12 died in the House earlier this year, the language from the bill was [inserted into HB 1447](#) in the House Rules and Legislative Procedures Conference Committee yesterday. That Committee Report was then adopted by the House (70-27) and the Senate (39-10). No public testimony was allowed.

[Read more on this last minute resurrection of the bill.](#)

From here, HB 1447 cannot be amended. This bill will be sent to the governor to sign into law or veto. [Email Gov. Holcomb today and tell him to veto HB1477.](#)

HB 1568: Prescription for Hormonal Contraception

This bill will allow pharmacists who meet certain requirements to prescribe and dispense birth control. This and other bills regarding easing access to birth control were developed as a direct result of the special session last summer on banning abortion in Indiana. The authors of HB 1568 are all women and represent both parties. Author, Rep. Elizabeth Rowray said, "We thought that having access to hormonal contraceptives as readily available as possible would be one step in making sure we didn't have those unintended pregnancies."

We support this bill because we believe that contraceptives of all kinds should be made easily available to Hoosiers who need or want them.

MCCOY is pleased to see this bill has passed out of the General Assembly and is on its way to Governor Holcomb to pass into law.

SB480: Gender Transition Procedures for Minors

This bill will ban access to any sort of medical or surgical treatment for transgender youth including puberty blockers, hormone therapy or gender-affirming surgery.

We oppose this bill because experts agree that gender-affirming care is lifesaving healthcare. These healthcare decisions should be left between an individual and their physician.

MCCOY is incredibly disappointed to see that SB480 has been signed into law by Gov Holcomb. As of now, the bill goes into effect on July 1 and any youth currently receiving medical gender transition procedures will need to stop treatment by the end of 2023.

The ACLU of Indiana has filed a lawsuit in an attempt to halt Indiana's gender-affirming care ban for transgender youth before it takes effect. Their legal arguments rest on constitutional violations and equal protections for transgender Americans.

[Read more here.](#)

This work is NOT OVER. MCCOY will continue to advocate and fight for positive policy changes that support transgender youth in Indiana.

SB 35: Financial Literacy

This bill will require high school students to pass a financial literacy course to graduate.

MCCOY supports this bill.

We will always support educational opportunities for young Hoosiers and feel that equipping them with knowledge of financial literacy will benefit young people as they enter adulthood.

MCCOY is pleased to see this bill has passed out of the General Assembly

HB 1449: 21st Century Scholars Program

This bill will require that students eligible for the 21st Century Scholarship be adequately informed about the program and their eligibility during the year they can enroll.

We support this legislation because it will remove barriers to educational opportunities for young Hoosiers.

MCCOY is pleased to see this bill has passed out of the General Assembly and is on its way to Governor Holcomb to pass into law.

HB 1407: Parental Rights

This bill proposed to prohibit child services agencies to consider removing a child from a potentially abusive home due to failure of the parent to provide an affirming and safe environment for their transgender child.

MCCOY opposes this bill.

This bill would make it more difficult for child services agencies to protect children who are living in potentially unsafe conditions.

HB 1608: Human Sexuality Instruction

This bill will ban mention or recognition of gender and sexuality in K-3 classrooms and requires permission from parents for a child to go by new names/pronouns.

MCCOY opposes this bill.

This bill erases LGBTQ families and children from being seen and affirmed in the classroom and endangers young trans students by requiring administration to out them to their parents before using their pronouns.

This bill has also passed the General Assembly and has been sent to the governor for him to approve or veto.

[Email Gov Holcomb and tell him that you oppose HB 1608.](#)

[Read more here.](#)

SB 265: TANF eligibility

This bill will increase the maximum income threshold for the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) to 50% of the federal income poverty level. It would also increase the maximum amount of money families can receive from TANF.

MCCOY supports this bill.

We will always support removing barriers for Hoosiers in need to receive necessary supports to thrive.

and is on its way to Governor Holcomb to pass into law.

This bill failed to receive a hearing in the House. **This bill is DEAD.**

MCCOY is pleased to see this bill has passed out of the General Assembly and is on its way to Governor Holcomb to pass into law.

SB 486: Education Matters

This bill will remove a 50-year-old mandate that requires school administrators to discuss working conditions with teachers' labor representatives. The bill also would strip down teacher training and evaluation requirements currently in state law.

MCCOY opposes this bill.

We join the many teachers in opposition of SB486 because by removing collective bargaining protections, teacher concerns may be silenced, and could result in further driving teachers from their profession.

This bill has passed the General Assembly and will now be sent to the governor to sign into law or veto. [Contact Gov Holcomb and tell him you oppose SB 486.](#)

[Read more.](#)

HB 1558: Science of Reading

This bill will establish funding to place literacy instruction coaches in elementary schools, as well as obtain reading training for teachers throughout Indiana. The author of this bill, Rep. Jake Teshka, outlined the importance of how we instruct reading. He mentioned that 20% of Hoosier children are not reading proficiently and that the lack of proficiency in reading leads to a higher rate of students dropping out of school.

MCCOY supports this bill.

We support HB 1558 because it would allow more children in Indiana to become proficient in reading, giving them a better chance for success as they grow.

HB 1493: Elimination of Costs and Fees in Juvenile Court

This bill will waive juvenile court costs and fees for families unless they are financially able to pay them.

MCCOY supports this bill.

This would eliminate an undue burden on families by making courts responsible for ensuring parents can pay for juvenile court fees.

MCCOY is pleased to see this bill has passed out of the General Assembly and is on its way to Governor Holcomb to pass into law.

HB 252: Contraceptives and Pregnancy Matters

This bill will allow an unclaimed long acting reversible contraceptive that is prescribed to and obtained for a Medicaid recipient to be transferred to another Medicaid recipient.

MCCOY supports this bill.

We support any effort to expand access to safe and effective contraceptive methods.

MCCOY is pleased to see this bill has been sent to Governor Holcomb who has signed it into law. The law goes into effect next year.

SB 167: FAFSA

This bill will require students to fill out the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). The new law makes filling out the form a conscious choice instead of happenstance and will allow more students to be considered for federal financial aid such as grants, loans, and scholarships. Completion is also considered a leading indicator of college-going.

MCCOY supports this bill.

We are pleased to see this legislation pass into law because we support any efforts to help young people seek higher education and break down barriers to reach those goals.

MCCOY is pleased to see this bill has been sent to Governor Holcomb who has signed it into law. The law goes into effect next year.

[Read more here.](#)

SB 340: Imagination Library

This bill proposed to provide state-level funding for Indiana to participate in the [Dolly Parton Imagination Library program](#), which would gift one book a month to each child in Indiana from birth until age 5.

MCCOY supports this bill.

We support young children in Indiana having access to books so that they can not only bond while reading with their caregivers or parents, but so that they will be better prepared to start school.

MCCOY was disappointed to see that this bill failed to receive a second reading in the House. **This bill is DEAD.**

MCCOY is pleased to see this bill has been sent to Governor Holcomb who has signed it into law. The law goes into effect next year.

HB 1483: Discipline Rules Regarding Bullying

This bill will help ensure that school districts prioritize the safety of a child who has been bullied and determine the severity of each bullying incident to determine if it warrants the transfer of the perpetrator. It will also establish new requirements for schools to better report occurrences of bullying to the parents of the victim and the parents of the offender.

MCCOY supports this bill.

We support any attempt to improve children's abilities to learn in a safe and supportive environment.

MCCOY is pleased to see this bill has been sent to Governor Holcomb who has signed it into law. The law goes into effect next year.

SB4: Public Health Commission

This bill will define a core set of public health services county health departments would have to provide in order to qualify for expanded state funding. Those services range from sanitary inspections of public buildings and tattoo parlors to tobacco control to preventing and reducing chronic illnesses such as obesity and diabetes. Funding for SB 4 was included in the State Budget and includes \$75 million for Fiscal Year 2024 and \$150 million for FY 2025 for health departments to use if they agree to provide the services.

MCCOY supports this bill.

We support measures to improve the quality of Hoosiers' health by investing in public health supports.

MCCOY is pleased to see this bill has been sent to Governor Holcomb who has signed it into law. The law goes into effect next year.

[Read more here.](#)

HB1177: Firearm training for teachers

Under current Indiana law, with permission of a schoolboard, teachers are allowed to carry guns in schools, but have no requirement to go through proper training. This bill would provide state funding for teachers who do choose to carry guns in schools to voluntarily go through training.

MCCOY is neutral on this bill.

We don't want to see ANY guns in schools, but if a school board already has a policy permitting teachers to have firearms in their schools, then we certainly want to make sure that they are properly trained.

Moreover,

- Training should not be voluntary, but instead a REQUIREMENT for anyone carrying a firearm in a school.
- Funding should be included for mandatory safe storage of the firearm in schools.
- Parents should be notified if their child is in a classroom where a gun is present.
- Parents should know how the gun will be properly and safely stored in the class room.
- Parents should have the option to remove their child from that classroom and put them in a classroom where a firearm is not present.

This bill has passed out of both chambers and will be sent to Governor Holcomb.

[Contact Gov. Holcomb today and let him know that guns need to be left OUT of schools.](#)



This work never ends!

Now that session has wrapped up, legislators will be heading back to their constituencies where they will be more easily accessible to meet with constituents.

Use this time to get to know your legislators!

- Let them know what is important to you!
- Share the work that you do!
- Suggest legislation that you would like to see them introduce during the 2024 legislative session!

Use our Find your Legislator Tool to find your State House Representative and State Senator. You will find multiple ways to contact them and their staff. Set up a meeting today! will be back, and they need to hear your thoughts to best represent you and the families you serve!

FIND YOUR LEGISLATORS

Contact Us

Marion County Commission on Youth, Inc.
 1375 W. 16th Street
 Indianapolis, Indiana 46202
 317-921-1266
info@mccoyouth.org

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