

## Hannah Swogger

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**From:** Sarah at MCCOY <sarah.kumfer@mccoyouth.org>  
**Sent:** Friday, January 19, 2024 8:00 AM  
**To:** Hannah Swogger  
**Subject:** This week may have been short, but the Indiana General Assembly has been busy! Here's what you need to know:

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It has been another busy week at the Indiana Statehouse, Hannah!

This week brought more committee hearings, where some high profile education and childcare bills were discussed. Read below about what bills received a hearing and learn more about what they mean for young people and educators in Indiana.

We also have some exciting updates about Youth Day at the Statehouse, scheduled for **President's Day, February 19th**. We have our official schedule posted along with some useful resources to help young people prepare for the day. [Register for free today!](#) Scroll down to learn more!

Have a great weekend,

*Sarah*

**There is still time to register for  
Youth Day at the Statehouse!**



# YOUTH Day At The Statehouse

## **Presidents Day: February 19, 2024**

We are so excited that so many people have already registered to attend Youth Day at the Statehouse! We are hoping to pack the Statehouse with young people from across the state so that lawmakers know that youth belong in the rooms where decisions are made, and youth voices matter! If you haven't yet, [register to attend today!](#)

## **We have a lot of exciting updates to share with you!**

Many have asked about what the agenda is for the day. Our agenda is intentionally flexible so that you and your group can come and go as you please. Are you only available to stay for part of the day? That's okay! Check out our full agenda on events happening throughout the day, along with things you can do at the Statehouse at your leisure!

[Read the full agenda here.](#)

Are you planning on bringing young people to Youth Day at the Statehouse and want to share information with them to prepare them for the day? Check out some of our educational videos that will explain what to expect during the day, how to effectively communicate with lawmakers, how to research legislation, what to expect when watching committee hearings, and more!

[Watch our educational videos now.](#)

Spread the word! We have put together a useful communications toolkit with images and sample social media posts that you can use to share information with your networks about Youth Day at the Statehouse.

[Click here to see the toolkit.](#)

**Register Now!**

Button not working? Copy and paste this link in your browser:  
<https://secure.mccoyouth.org/a/youthdayatthestatehouse>

## Legislative issues from this week



### 3rd Grade Reading

[\*\*SB1, "Reading Skills,"\*\*](#) received a hearing in the Senate Education and Career Development committee this week. This bill will reinforce Indiana's policy of holding back students who fail the state's reading test, while also requiring schools to identify and give remediation to those who are at risk of not passing an exam.

The author of the bill says retention will continue to be a last resort after other intervention methods have been exhausted. Teachers, parents, and other education experts expressed skepticism about increased retention, saying it would negatively affect students' social-emotional well-being and long-term outcomes. There are exemptions for students with disabilities and individualized education programs, or who are English language-learners.

The bill passed out of the committee with a vote of 9-4 and will now be sent to the full Senate chamber for further review.

Similarly, [\*\*SB6, "Reading Proficiency,"\*\*](#) received a hearing the same day. This bill will require the Department of Education to find a way to support older students in grades 4-8 who did not meet reading requirements or who are at risk of not

meeting proficiency requirements for reading. SB6 has been held in committee for further review.

[Read more.](#)



### **Childcare Accessibility**

[SB2, "Childcare,"](#) passed out of the Senate committee on Health and Provider Services this week with unanimous support (11-0).

If passed, this bill will expand access to childcare by making childcare workers eligible for Child Care Development Vouchers, which help pay for the costs of childcare. The bill lowers the minimum age from 21 to 18 to become a child care worker, and allows 16- and 17-year olds to work in childcare settings under continuous supervision. The bill also sets up a pilot program to explore childcare micro-facilities, which would care for 3-30 children in a nonresidential setting, such as at a business.

[Read more.](#)



### **Chronic Absenteeism**

[SB 282, "Family Services to Prevent Truancy,"](#) was introduced earlier this week. This bill will reinforce existing laws on absenteeism, which can include punitive measures for excessive absences. This could result in a civil penalty on the parent or guardian, allows the juvenile court to impose community service on the child, and could

implement fines on the family. The bill also establishes a truancy prevention program.

MCCOY is deeply concerned about this bill because as written, it will only increase the school-to-prison pipeline instead of taking preventative measures to better understand why a student is absent from school and address ways to provide supports for that student and their caregivers.

SB282 has been referred to the Senate Committee on Education and Career Development.

[Read more.](#)



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