

Hannah Swogger

From: Sarah at MCCOY <sarah.kumfer@mccoyouth.org>
Sent: Friday, January 5, 2024 8:00 AM
To: Hannah Swogger
Subject: The Statehouse Sound-off is back! Register for Youth Day at the Statehouse and learn about 2024 legislative issues!



Happy New Year, Hannah!

Indiana's 2024 Legislative Session begins soon, so the Statehouse Sound-off is back!

The Indiana General Assembly reconvenes on Monday, January 8th, and lawmakers will be hard at work passing new laws until session wraps up in mid-March.

It is my hope that this weekly newsletter will continue serving as a useful resource to inform you on what is happening at the Statehouse that will impact youth, families, and the youth-serving community as well as educate and empower you to take action to support positive policy changes in Indiana.

There is so much to look forward to this year! Read below to learn about what we expect will be topics of discussion this session, read MCCOY's legislative priorities, and register for the 2024 Youth Day at the Statehouse!

Register for Youth Day at the Statehouse!



YOUTH Day At The Statehouse

Presidents Day: February 19, 2024

This year we are excited to be hosting a Youth Day at the Statehouse! Mark your calendars and register today.

This exciting day will take place on Presidents Day and will be an opportunity for young people from all over the state to come to the Statehouse and see the Indiana General Assembly in action.

Youth will have the opportunity to connect with other youth advocates from across the state, share their ideas with lawmakers, explore the historic Statehouse building, observe committee hearings and voting, and learn more about other youth advocacy groups they can join!

Check-in and breakfast starts at 9:00 AM.

A lunch program (with free lunch!) will take place from 12:00 PM -1:00 PM.

Tours of the Statehouse will be available, and youth will be able to explore throughout the day and sit in and observe committee hearings, session voting, and more!

[Register Now!](#)

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

Become a Sponsor for Youth Day at the Statehouse!

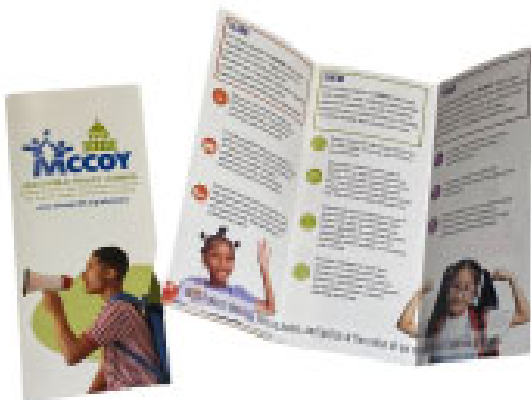
Hoping to help make this day a success? We are still looking for sponsors and individual donations!

Your contribution will help cover the cost of lunch and transportation for young people and also provide printed resources and other learning materials so that youth attendees leave educated and empowered to become advocates for themselves and their peers.

[Donate Today!](#)

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MCCOY's 2024 Public Policy Agenda



Guiding MCCOY's Advocacy Efforts to improve the life of children and families in Indiana.

MCCOY's 2024 Public Policy Agenda has been released! Our goals this year center around MCCOY's new vision to ensure that children in Indiana have equitable opportunities to Learn, Grow, and Thrive. This includes ensuring schools are accessible and equipped to serve all youth, that families live in safe, stable, nurturing, and affirming environments, and that youth are empowered to be a part of the decisions that affect them.

[Read our full public policy agenda.](#)

2024 Legislative Issues to Expect

Lawmakers have already begun to file bills for the 2024 legislative session. To see the bills that have been filed at this point (and to see new bills as they are added) [you can click here](#).

Lawmakers are hoping to tackle a number of education issues this year. Meanwhile, educators are still struggling with implementing some of the [controversial new laws from the 2023 legislative session](#).



Chronic Absenteeism

Indiana policymakers have indicated that during the upcoming legislative session they may seek to reinforce existing laws on absenteeism, which can include punitive measures for excessive absences. These allow local prosecutor's offices to take parents and teens to court, and make students ineligible for drivers' licenses. While MCCOY wants to ensure measures are taken to address chronic absenteeism, we will advocate to ensure that policies will support the root causes of why a student is absent. Punitive measures against schools or families are not the solution.

[Read more](#)



Childcare Accessibility

Lawmakers are expecting to file and advance significant childcare legislation this session to address child care accessibility. An interim committee focused on health issues was tasked with finding solutions to the lack of available and affordable child care, and up to 10 of their recommendations will be included in a bill to address this issue. There are concerns that with this year being a non-budget year, some of these ideas may not make it through. MCCOY is looking forward to working with legislators to improve and expand childcare accessibility in Indiana.

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3rd Grade Reading

Lawmakers are hoping to improve literacy rates among Hoosier students, and some are hoping to toughen Indiana's policy that requires most kids who are not meeting requirements in reading to repeat the third grade. Hoosier teachers, school officials, and education experts are hesitant about this plan because a more stringent statewide retention law could further increase classroom sizes and have negative social and emotional effects for students.

[Read More](#)



Other expected education issues

Other issues that lawmakers are hoping to tackle this year include revisiting career-readiness and improving the statewide career-centered education bill, HB 1002 from last year. There is interest in restricting cell phone usage in K-12 classrooms. Lawmakers also hope to crack down on antisemitism by codifying antisemitism as discrimination on the basis of religion in the section of Indiana law about equal opportunity in schools.

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