

Indiana Association for the Education of Young Children

As the state affiliate of the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC), Indiana AEYC is a statewide, nonprofit 501 (c) 3 organization with more than 2,000 members and 11 chapters. Indiana AEYC has a 56 year history and mission of promoting high-quality learning for all children, birth through age 8, by connecting practice, policy and research. We advance a diverse, dynamic early childhood profession and support all who care for, educate and work on behalf of young children. Our mission is accomplished by concentrating on offering professional development for those in the early childhood profession offering support and recognition for early childhood programs through national accreditation, and championing public policy pertinent to young children. Our vision is that all young children thrive and learn in a society dedicated to ensuring they reach their full potential.

Contact Information:

*Indiana AEYC
Dianna Wallace, Executive Director
2955 N. Meridian, Suite 120
Indianapolis, IN 46208
317-356-6884
inaeyc.org*

Make a Difference in Two Minutes for Young Children and Educators

The Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) has changed daily life in many ways for all of us. Yet child development has not paused, and supporting children, families, and early childhood educators of all kinds is as important as ever. We at Indiana AEYC especially wish to honor and support the extraordinary efforts of the early childhood community who are working tirelessly to assure the continuing availability of essential services while focusing public attention on the many challenges facing families with young children.

The 2020-2021 Public Policy Agenda includes a special section on the
Impact of COVID 19 on early childhood programs in Indiana.

Please join us and take 2 minutes to:

Support early childhood programs as an essential part of the Indiana economy because it allows families to work and it lays the educational and developmental foundation for the next generation.

Support basic safeguards that protect the health and safety, and developmental well-being of Indiana children receiving state or federal assistance.

Support an early childhood workforce that exemplifies excellence and is recognized as being vital and critical to society.

Support the expansion of a high quality early care and education system that supports parental choice in a mixed delivery system by connecting practice, policy and research.

Indiana Association for the Education of Young Children 2021 Public Policy Agenda

- 1. Support early childhood programs as an essential part of the Indiana economy because it allows families to work and it lays the educational and developmental foundation for the next generation.**
 - Support the continuation of financial supports for early childhood programs in the form of grants/incentives/resources.
 - Support COVID 19 relief for families through policy flexibilities related to attendance, enrollment, accessibility and eligibility while protecting the ongoing health and safety of young children.
 - Invest in the recruitment and retention of the early childhood workforce through Early Childhood Recruitment and Retention incentives.
 - Support early childhood educators as essential workers in the distribution of the COVID vaccine state plan.

- 2. Support basic safeguards that protect the health and safety, and developmental well-being of Indiana children.**
 - Support social and emotional support for young children and their families including impacts of COVID 19. Sustain *Be Well Indiana* resources for young children and their families.
 - Support access to social emotional professional development for the early childhood workforce.
 - Support policy that requires the use of all state and federal funding for child care in Paths to QUALITY™ Level 3 and Level 4

- 3. Support a diverse early childhood workforce that exemplifies excellence and is recognized as essential and critical to society and the Indiana economy.**
 - Support the Early Childhood Profession as a high-priority, essential, and in-demand profession as part of Next Level Jobs Indiana.
 - Support the continuation and availability of COVID Early Childhood Recruitment and Retention incentives.
 - Invest in early childhood educators' career and educational advancement, especially for educators of color and multilingual educators.

- 4. Support the expansion of a high quality early care and education system that supports families in a mixed delivery system by connecting practice, policy and research.**

Support a high quality, accessible and affordable Indiana Early Childhood Education system that:

 - Identifies clear goals and quantifiable results for children birth through age eight. These goals will identify skills and knowledge that children should demonstrate across the various domains of development, and will take into consideration the child, family, and community conditions that promote such development.
 - Ensures equitable access among historically underserved populations
 - Support the continuation of funding for On My Way Pre-k scholarships and remove barriers to family enrollment.