

## 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 57-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 and families. Our vision is that all young children thrive and learn in a society dedicated to ensuring they reach their full potential.

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### ***Leading Through the Change and Planning for Our Future!***

The Coronavirus Disease (COVID) continues to create challenges and uncertainty for young children, families, early childhood educators and the Indiana economy. 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 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 for young children and families.

### **Please Join Us:**

#### **To Lead Through the Change for Children, Families and Educators**

Support an early childhood system centered on equity, diversity and belonging to advance quality, accessibility and affordability built on a mixed delivery model by connecting practice, policy, and research.

Advance the early care and education profession exemplifying excellence with investments specifically for educators' compensation and benefits.

Support the increased mental health and social-emotional supports for young children, families and educators while maintaining the basic health and safety for all children.

Support a reformed child care regulation and financing structure built on the true cost of education and care.

## **Indiana Association for the Education of Young Children 2022 Public Policy Agenda**

- 1. Support an early childhood system centered on equity, diversity and belonging to advance quality, accessibility and affordability built on a mixed delivery model by connecting practice, policy, and research.**
  - Support 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.
  - Support policy reform related to cost and eligibility of early childhood and child care programs based on outcomes from the waivers/programs provided through the pandemic.
  - Increase accessibility and affordability for historically underserved populations (poor, rural, people of color, infant/toddlers, immigrant families, non-traditional working hours) to early childhood and child care programs.
  - Build a supply of early childhood and child care programs and facilities that match families' preference.
  
- 2. Advance the early care and education profession exemplifying excellence with investments specifically for educators' compensation and benefits.**
  - Invest in early childhood educators' career and educational advancement, especially for educators of color and multilingual educators.
  - Support the continuation of public investment in the early childhood workforce compensation and benefits with educational and salary parity.
  - Support partnerships with workforce development agencies to support an early childhood workforce pipeline recruiting, advancing, and retaining educators.
  - Leverage resources to support historically underserved early childhood educators.
  
- 3. Support the increased mental health and social-emotional supports for young children, families and educators while maintaining the basic health and safety for all children.**
  - Support increased access and financial support for social emotional and mental health for young children and families.
  - Support access to social emotional professional development for the early childhood workforce.
  
- 4. Support a reformed child care regulation and financing structure built on the true cost of education and care.**
  - Support the continuation of child care funding and subsidy based on the true cost of care.
  - Support the creation of additional financing mechanisms to reduce burdens on early childhood and child care programs. Extend the policies implemented during the pandemic to stabilize child care.
  - Increase the use of contracts based on the cost of quality and enrollment to provide more financial stability for child care programs.
  - Support the review and revision of all child care regulations to increase the quality, accountability, and relevance of the regulations.