



2026 INAEYC Public Policy and Advocacy Toolkit



inaeyc

Indiana Association for the
Education of Young Children

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An Affiliate of **naeyc**

As the state affiliate of the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC), Indiana AEYC (INAEYC) is a statewide, nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization with more than 2,200 members and 10 chapters. INAEYC has a 60-year history and mission of promoting high-quality learning for each and every child, birth through age 8, by connecting practice, policy, and research. We advance a dynamic early childhood profession and support all who care for, educate, and work on behalf of young children. **Our mission** is carried out by 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 each and every child thrives and learns in a society dedicated to ensuring they reach their full potential.

2026 Public Policy Statement

INAEYC is a leading voice for high-quality early childhood education supported by a dynamic early childhood profession. Along with Hoosiers of all political, geographic, and demographic backgrounds, we are coming together to demand investments in high-quality early childhood education and early childhood educators, because we know that will make Indiana brighter, stronger, and more competitive.

Public Policy and Advocacy Resources

Please note: all advocacy activities listed in the resources fall within the legal limits of what an individual associated with a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization can do. **Chapters may not engage in advocacy activities without prior approval from the INAEYC Executive Director.**

INAEYC 2026 Legislative Session Priorities

Federal and State Advocacy Resources and Information

- [Find My Legislator Tool for State-must input physical address](#)
- [Find My Legislator Tool for Congress-must input physical address](#)
- [Organizing a Site Visit for a Policy Maker](#)
- [Mastering Meetings with Policy Makers](#)
- [The Federal Legislative Process, Or How A Bill Becomes a Law](#)
- [The State Legislative Process](#)
- [ECE Acronym “Cheat Sheet”](#)
- [Five Myths about ECE and How to Dispel Them](#)

Building Knowledge: Issue Areas

- [Budget and Appropriations](#)
- [Child Care](#)
- [Family Tax Strategies](#)
- [Head Start](#)
- [Higher Education](#)
- [PreK-12 Education](#)



Because Indiana AEYC is a tax-exempt organization under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, we cannot support or oppose any candidate for public office and legislator visits and meetings must be conducted in a strictly non-partisan manner. Public officials invited to visit a member location are asked not to use it as a campaign opportunity in any manner, including asking for votes, soliciting contributions, distributing campaign literature or asking for volunteers to assist in campaigns. These rules apply to staff and supporters as well.



A photograph of the Indiana State Capitol dome, featuring a green copper roof and a white stone base with arched windows. An American flag flies from a tall pole in front of the dome against a clear blue sky.

Public Policy and Advocacy Resources

CCDF Crisis in Indiana

- [Learn more about CCDF rate Reductions in Indiana](#)
- [CCDF Crisis Sample Letter to Legislator-Educator/Advocate](#)
- [CCDF Crisis Sample Letter to Legislator - Classroom Educator](#)
- [CCDF Stories](#)
- [Share Your CCDF Story](#)



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Adopt-A-Legislator Guidance

As an Indiana AEYC member, your voice matters! We are asking members to reach out to their State Representative and State Senator to establish a professional relationship (Adopt-A-Legislator) in order to provide a personal look into the issues that contribute to the quality and access of early childhood programs and working condition, education, turn over and compensation of early childhood professionals.

Process:

1. Work with your Chapter Leadership to identify programs to host a legislator site visit. Program locations should be connected to an INAEYC member and within your chapter area: Local Chapters - Indiana AEYC. Once a program is selected, schedule time that works for a legislator visit-you will include these potential visit dates and times in your initial outreach (sample text below).
2. Identify your State Representative and State Senator. You may use the Find My Legislator tool at: iga.in.gov/legislative/find-legislators or contact Hanan Osman, Ph.D.: 317-275-3506 or hosman@inaeyc.org. Chapter leadership will also receive a list of all state representatives and senators in their region along with a public policy toolkit.
3. **Adopting a Legislator:** Reach out to your State Representative and State Senator by emailing, calling or sending a letter (sample text below). Establishing a professional relationship with your legislator is very important. We are asking members to invite legislators to visit their center/home/ministry to tour and see first-hand the hard work and dedication of early childhood professionals. Members should also sign up for your legislator email updates via their website in order to attend their “office hours” and meet outside of session. During the legislative session, lawmakers are usually busy during weekdays. Many host Saturday or special office hours for in person meetings which is a great opportunity for members and Chapter Leadership to meet with lawmakers.
4. Inform Hanan Osman, Ph.D. (hosman@inaeyc.org) once you have organized a time to meet with your legislator. Stefanie will track which legislators have been “adopted” and visit dates.
Please notify Stefanie anytime you engage with your “adopted” legislator(s).
5. Send a “Thank You” follow-up to your legislator. It’s important to remain in contact with your legislator after the visit.



Sample Legislator Invite-Adopt a Legislator Visits for Chapter Leadership

Date _____

Dear **[Representative / Senator Last Name]**:

My name is **[Chapter President Name]** and I am a member of the Indiana Association for the Education of Young Children (INAEYC). I serve as a Chapter President for **[Chapter Name]** Region of INAEYC. The **[Chapter Name]** Region of INAEYC is pleased to extend an invitation for you to see high-quality early childhood education in action. We invite you to visit **[Program Name]**, an NAEYC accredited early learning program located in our shared community as part of our Adopt a Legislator campaign. INAEYC Chapters “adopt” state legislators and invite them to visit one of the many INAEYC member locations in their district. Our Chapter would be honored to adopt you as our State **[Representative/Senator]**! Decades of research has shown that high-quality early learning and development experiences provide individual and economic benefits for children, families, and communities. Research further demonstrates that early childhood educators are the linchpins in quality early care and education programs.

We hope that you will be able to visit this outstanding program and learn first-hand how INAEYC, **[Program Name]**, and early childhood professionals work together to fulfill the vision of ensuring all children can thrive and learn in a society dedicated to ensuring they reach their full potential.

We would welcome your visit during the following days and times: _____
. Please contact **[Chapter President Name and Contact Info]** for more information and to discuss this invitation further.

Because Indiana AEYC is a tax-exempt organization under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, we cannot support or oppose any candidate for public office and your visit must be conducted in a strictly non-partisan manner. Public officials such as yourself who are invited to visit a member location are asked not to use it as a campaign opportunity in any manner, including asking for votes, soliciting contributions, distributing campaign literature or asking for volunteers to assist in campaigns. These rules apply to staff and supporters as well.

We look forward to having you visit _____ and engage with knowledgeable and skilled educators, as well as the families and children we serve, in order to advance our current and future workforce, and help our community and nation thrive.

Sincerely,

[Chapter President Name]

Sample Legislator Invite - Adopt a Legislator Visits for INAEYC Members

Date

Dear **[Representative / Senator Last Name]**:

My name is **[Name]** and I am a member of the **Indiana Association for the Education of Young Children (INAEYC)**. I would like to extend an invitation for you to see high-quality early childhood education in action. We invite you to visit **[Program Name]**, a NAEYC accredited early learning program [or other information about the program] located in our shared community as part of our Adopt a Legislator campaign. INAEYC Chapters “adopt” state legislators and invite them to visit one of the many INAEYC member locations in their district. Our Chapter would be honored to adopt you as our State **[Representative/Senator]**! Decades of research have shown that high-quality early learning and development experiences provide individual and economic benefits for children, families, and communities. Research further demonstrates that early childhood educators are the linchpins in quality early care and education programs.

We hope that you will be able to visit this outstanding program and learn first-hand how INAEYC, **[Program Name]**, and early childhood professionals work together to fulfill the vision of ensuring all children can thrive and learn in a society dedicated to ensuring they reach their full potential.

We would welcome your visit during the following days and times: Please contact **[Your Information]** for more information and to discuss this invitation further.

Because Indiana AEYC is a tax-exempt organization under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, we cannot support or oppose any candidate for public office and your visit must be conducted in a strictly non-partisan manner. Public officials such as yourself who are invited to visit a member location are asked not to use it as a campaign opportunity in any manner, including asking for votes, soliciting contributions, distributing campaign literature or asking for volunteers to assist in campaigns. These rules apply to staff and supporters as well.

We look forward to having you visit and engage with knowledgeable and skilled educators, as well as the families and children we serve, to advance our current and future workforce, and help our community and nation thrive.

Sincerely,

[Name]

Indiana Early Childhood Education Day at the Indiana Statehouse

This event is organized by the Indiana Association for the Education of Young Children (INAEYC), in partnership with the Early Education Works Coalition, Hoosier Milestones, LENA, the Early Learning Workforce Coalition and the United Way of Central Indiana and out-of-school time care providers, to raise awareness about the importance of early childhood education and to advocate for policies that support children and families. It's a day where educators, parents, policymakers, and community leaders from across Indiana will come together to discuss the current state and promote the needs and benefits of early learning programs and the workforce in the state.

This is crucial for highlighting the transformative impact of early care and education on children's development and to acknowledge that childcare is essential infrastructure for economic growth. This serves as a platform for stakeholders to stay engaged and provide input on early childhood initiatives. It's a day of collaboration and celebration of the efforts made toward improving and investing in early childhood and ensuring that children have access to high-quality learning opportunities taught by educated and skilled educators.

INAEYC is asking for Chapter Leadership to follow up with their regional legislators after January 15, 2026-sample text below. During the Indiana ECE Day, each chapter will have a regional table to meet with legislators/staff and discuss issues relevant to your communities.

Chapter Leadership will also receive list of names of individuals from their region that have registered for the Day. Questions? Reach out to Hanan Osman, Ph.D., hosman@inaeyc.org.

Flyer to share



Sample Text - Day at the Statehouse Follow Up for Chapter Leadership

Date

Dear **[Representative / Senator Last Name]**:

My name is **[Chapter President Name]** and I am the Chapter President for the **[Chapter Name] Region of INAEYC**. I am following up on the invitation you received from our organization, The Indiana Association for the Education of Young Children (INAEYC), for our Indiana Early Childhood Education Day. It will be held at the Indiana Statehouse-South Atrium on February 5, 2026 from 8:30 to 11:30 a.m. ET.

Before the speaker portion of our agenda, our region will have a table to host early childhood educators, partners, parents, and allies. We will also meet with legislators in-office during this time. We would be honored to have you join us to listen to our speakers and meet with your constituents to hear about early childhood education issues impacting our region.

Given your commitment to education, we think this would be a great event for you to share your priorities and to learn firsthand how INAEYC works to promote high-quality early learning for all children in our state. Indiana Early Childhood Education Day is an excellent occasion to reach educators and community partners who collaborate with INAEYC in striving to ensure that all children in Indiana, birth to age 8, have the opportunity to reach their full potential.

We welcome your attendance and ask you to note that because INAEYC is a 501c(3) organization, we operate entirely as a nonpartisan entity and will be hosting legislators, partners, and organization members from both sides of the aisle to celebrate and promote the bipartisan issue of early childhood education.

Please contact **Hanan Osman, Ph.D., Executive Director, INAEYC**, at hosman@inaeyc.org or **317-275-3506** for more information and to discuss this invitation further. We look forward to your attendance at our Indiana Early Childhood Education Day at the Statehouse and to your engagement in our exciting work on behalf of children, families, and educators in our community.

Sincerely,

[Chapter President Name]

