

INAEYC 2026 Legislative Session Priorities



INTRODUCTION

The Indiana Association for the Education of Young Children (INAEYC) is committed to ensuring that every child, birth through age eight, has access to high-quality early learning experiences supported by a well-prepared, compensated early childhood workforce. As Indiana faces challenges in early care and education access, workforce shortages, and affordability, our 2026 legislative public policy priorities call for strategic investments and policy solutions that strengthen early childhood education as a cornerstone of the state's economic and social well-being. These priorities and emphasize:

1. Advocate for the linking of Kindergarten Readiness Indicators and increased IREAD scores to early learning experiences.

- INAEYC will develop a comprehensive briefing document to empower members to effectively communicate with legislators, highlighting the critical connection between early childhood education and long-term academic success. The brief will present data demonstrating how investments in early years and Kindergarten readiness drive improve student outcomes in higher grades.

2. Advocate for the update and review of Indiana Child Care Licensing Regulations.

- Leverage ELAC's [Indiana Licensing Framework](#) report to review and identify outdated regulations that can be modernized to reduce costs for programs without compromising the health and safety of children and educator competence and qualifications. Submit targeted recommendations to legislators to support informed decision-making and promote a more efficient and effective regulatory environment.

3. Advocate for the allocation of dedicated funding for Early Childhood Education.

- Conduct a thorough review of the current funding structure, evaluating whether early childhood education is best served within FSSA, Department of Education or an alternative state agency.