

A photograph of the Indiana State Capitol building in Indianapolis, featuring a prominent green dome and classical architectural details like columns and arches. The image is slightly faded to serve as a background for the text.

Indiana's Legislative Process & the 2023 Legislative Session

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Get Ready

- Indiana has a part-time legislature
- 2024 is a “short session”

- **First day of Session:** January 8, 2024
- **Midpoint:** Mid-February, 2024
- **Last day of Session (sine die):**
 - Mid-March, 2024

Know the Indiana legislative schedule

Winter & Spring: The Indiana General Assembly is in session

January-March (non-budget years)

January-April (budget years)

Summer: Interim study committees

Sometimes take place in early fall (depends on the committee)

Fall: Reports, recommendations, drafting of legislation



How Legislation Occurs





What can you do?

SHARE YOUR VOICE!

- Your expertise
- Your experiences
- Your stories
- Your network
- Your ideas

Advocacy vs. Lobbying

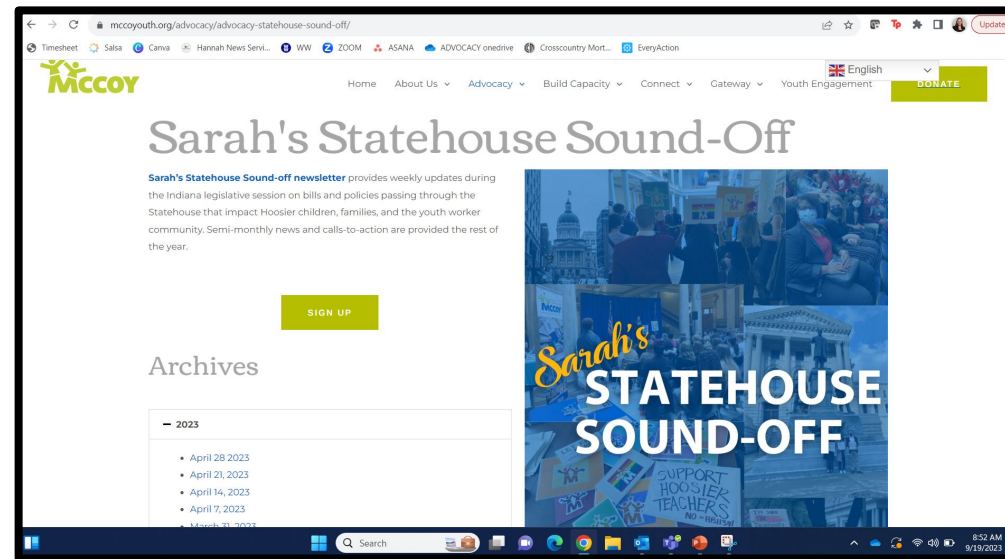
- Education and awareness of broad issues
 - Informs about how policy decisions impact service provision
 - Does not reference specific legislation
- Rallies and marches at the Statehouse
 - Researching policies and tracking legislation
 - Distributing legislative updates without a call to action
 - Encouraging the public to register and vote
 - Providing invited testimony to a legislative body
 - Informational meetings with legislators
 - Letter-writing, e-mail and phone campaigns not associated with specific legislation
- Attempting to influence legislators to support or oppose a particular issue or piece of legislation
 - A call to action that references specific legislation
- Meeting with legislator to discuss endorsing or opposing specific legislation
 - Drafting language for existing or proposed legislation
 - Call to Action
 - Organizing a public letter-writing campaign, urging support or opposition of specific legislation
 - Distributing information about specific legislation to members urging communication with legislators
 - This also includes all research, planning and preparation involved in deciding to lobby

CRASH COURSE ON NAVIGATING THE INDIANA GENERAL ASSEMBLY WEBSITE

The screenshot displays the Indiana General Assembly website interface. At the top left is the logo for the Indiana General Assembly, 2023 Session. To the right are links for "Find a Bill" and "Find Your Legislator". Below this is a dark blue navigation bar with the following menu items: Home, Information, Session, Committees, Legislation, Laws, Publications, and a search icon. The main content area features a large banner image of the Indiana State Capitol building. Below the banner, the text reads "Welcome to the Indiana General Assembly" and "123rd General Assembly". On the right side, there is a "Upcoming Meetings" widget. The widget shows the current date as Tuesday, Sep 19, 2023, and a "Chamber Filter" set to "All Meetings". Below the filter, it states "No meetings scheduled for this day." The bottom of the screenshot shows a Windows taskbar with the search bar, task view, and various application icons, along with the system tray showing the time as 8:46 AM on 9/19/2023.

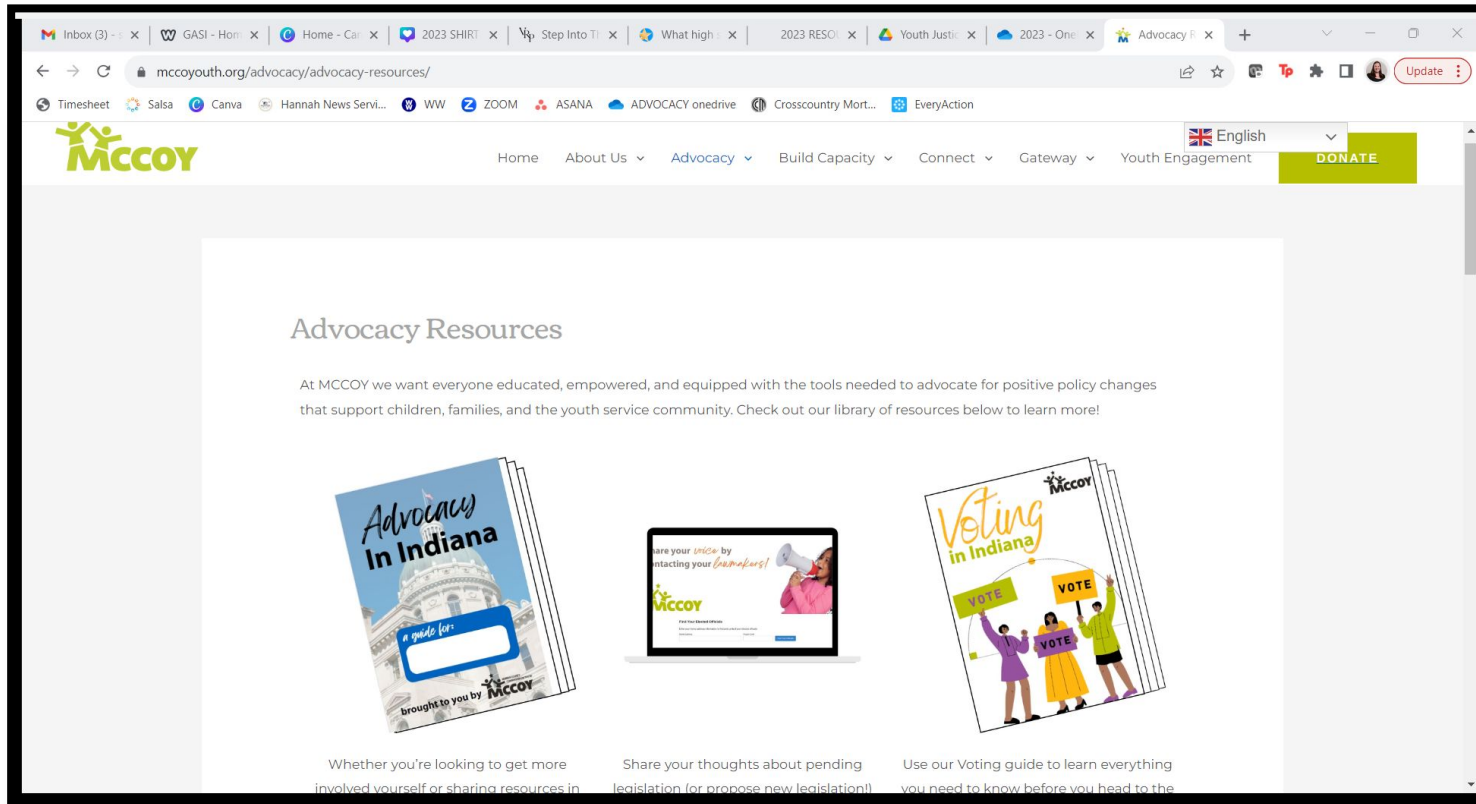
www.IGA.IN.gov

Follow along with The Statehouse Sound-off!



Provides weekly updates during the legislative session on bills and policies passing through the Statehouse that impact Hoosier children, families, and the youth-worker community.

MCCOY's Advocacy Resources



The screenshot shows a web browser window with the URL mccoyouth.org/advocacy/advocacy-resources/. The page features the MCCOY logo and a navigation menu with options: Home, About Us, Advocacy, Build Capacity, Connect, Gateway, Youth Engagement, and a prominent green DONATE button. The main heading is "Advocacy Resources". Below it, a paragraph states: "At MCCOY we want everyone educated, empowered, and equipped with the tools needed to advocate for positive policy changes that support children, families, and the youth service community. Check out our library of resources below to learn more!". Three resource cards are displayed: 1. "Advocacy In Indiana" guide, featuring a blue cover with the Indiana State Capitol and the text "a guide for" and "brought to you by MCCOY". 2. A laptop displaying a graphic that says "Share your voice by contacting your lawmakers!" with the MCCOY logo. 3. "Voting in Indiana" guide, featuring a yellow cover with the text "Voting in Indiana" and "VOTE" signs held by people. Below each card, there is a short descriptive sentence.

Advocacy Resources

At MCCOY we want everyone educated, empowered, and equipped with the tools needed to advocate for positive policy changes that support children, families, and the youth service community. Check out our library of resources below to learn more!

Advocacy In Indiana
a guide for
brought to you by MCCOY

Whether you're looking to get more involved yourself or sharing resources in

Share your thoughts about pending legislation (or propose new legislation)!

Use our Voting guide to learn everything you need to know before you head to the



(some of the)

New laws of interest to Youth Advocates





HB1483: Discipline Rules Regarding Bullying

- Requires all Indiana school corporations to update their discipline rules after July 1 to include provisions prioritizing the safety of bullying victims, as well as to ensure bullying incidents are reported to the parents of the victim and the alleged perpetrator no more than five business days following the incident, instead of in merely an "expedited" manner.
- It also permits school corporations to include in their discipline rules specific guidelines for determining whether a bullying incident warrants the forced transfer of the victim or the alleged perpetrator to a different school in the district.
- Will take effect before schools return to school from summer break.

Impact:

Change in number of reported bullying instances
Change in number of children reporting feeling depressed or suicidal

Needed supports:

Education of school personnel to recognize and report bullying
Education of youth to recognize and report bullying

•**HB1449: 21st Century Scholars Program:**

•This policy will automatically enroll eligible Hoosier students in the 21st Century Scholars program, which provides up to 100% tuition for public state colleges in Indiana for low-income students.

Impact:

Number of students who enroll in the program

Number of students who graduate college due to supports from the program

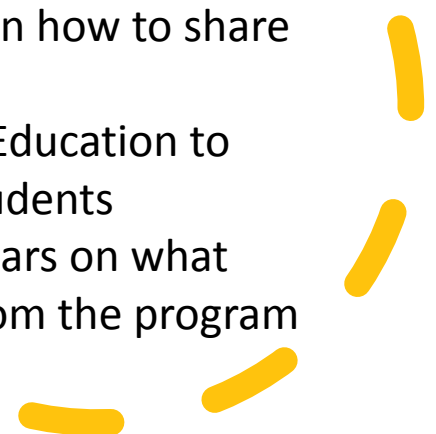
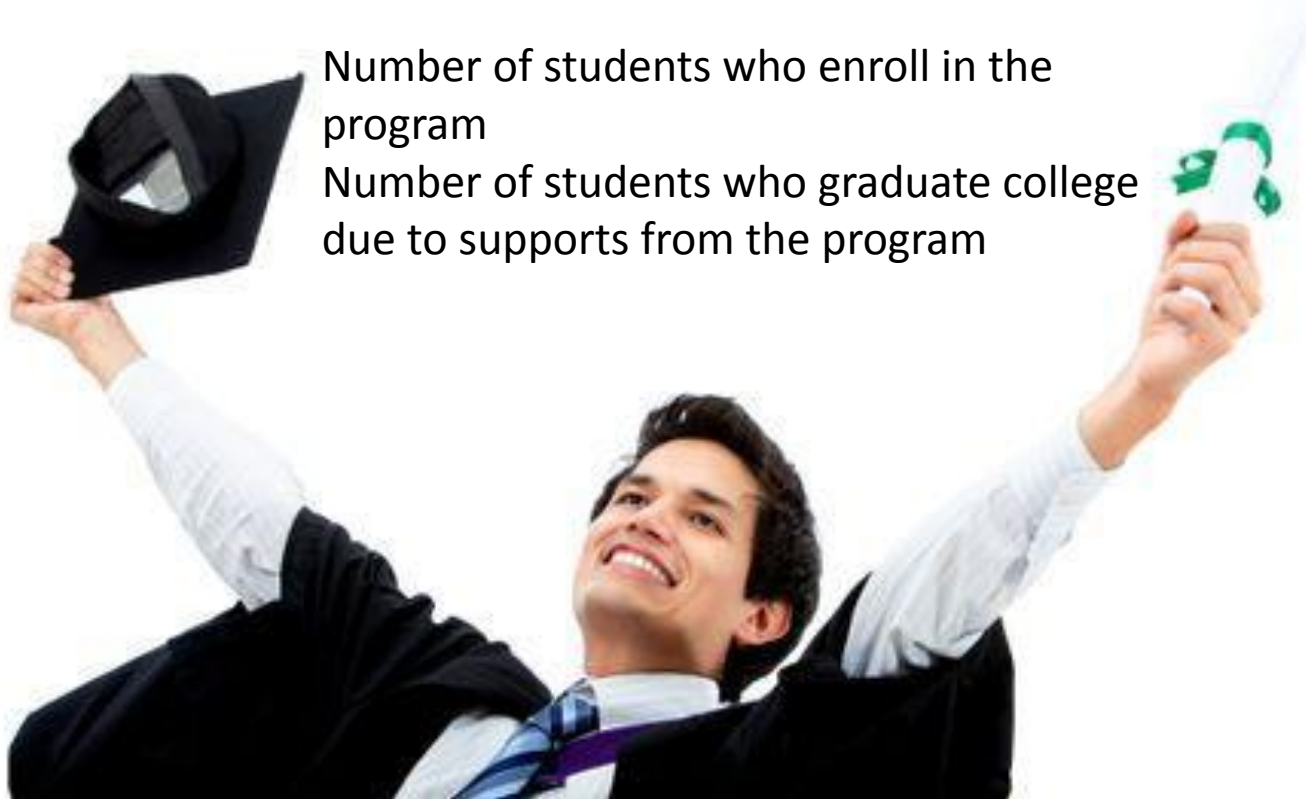
Needed supports:

Education for qualifying students on what the program is and how to remain a 21st Century Scholar

Education for teachers/faculty on how to share information on the program

Support for the Department of Education to identify and enroll qualifying students

Support and education for scholars on what school fees are NOT included from the program





Impact:

- Number of students filling out FAFSA
- Number of students enrolling in higher education
- Number of scholarship money awarded

•SB 167: FAFSA

- Requires high school students in their senior year to complete and submit the FAFSA no later than April 15.
- students need to file if they want to be considered for federal money such as grants, loans, and scholarships. States and colleges also use the FAFSA forms to determine if students are eligible for certain programs.

•Goes into effect next school year (2023-2024)

•Expires in 2033

Needed supports:

- Increased education on student loans/ student loan forgiveness/paying off debt
- Increased supports for other financial needs not covered by grants, loans, and scholarships
- Training for school personnel to support students and families with filling out FAFSA
- Support to ensure privacy with familial financial matters



•HB1493: Elimination of Costs and Fees in Juvenile Court

- Removes court fees and fines if the juvenile court determines that a family is unable to pay.
- Will go into effect on July 1.

Impact:

Change in juvenile recidivism

Needed supports:

Education to families about waiving of fees
Education to legal teams/judges on impacts of removal of financial barriers/burdens for families



•SB 415: Juveniles (Admissibility of statement by a juvenile in custody)

- Provides that a statement made by a juvenile during custodial interrogation in response to a materially false statement from a law enforcement officer is inadmissible against the juvenile.
- Requires that a law enforcement officer who arrests or takes into custody a child on school property or at a school-sponsored activity must notify or request a school administrator to notify the child's parent or guardian; or emergency contact.

Impact:

Number of false juvenile confessions
Change of general conception/trust of police

Needed supports:

Education to youth on knowing their rights if they are arrested.



Impact:

Number of students experiencing bullying, depression, thoughts of suicide
Diminished trust between students and teachers

•HB1608: Human Sexuality Instruction

- Provides that instruction on human sexuality is not permitted in schools between pre-K and 3rd grade.
- Requires a school to notify at least one parent if a student makes a request to change their preferred name or pronoun.

- Goes into effect July 1

Needed supports:

Education, training, and support for non-school youth service providers to offer safe and affirming spaces for youth.

Education of youth to know their rights and to understand the new policies.



Impact:

Number of families who leave the State
Depression and suicide rates for Trans youth

•SB480: Gender Transition Procedures for Minors

- Prohibits physicians from knowingly providing gender transition procedures to an individual who is less than 18 years of age.

- Care includes assistance with social transitioning, access to puberty blockers and hormone replacement therapies—all of which are generally considered to be reversible, time-tested treatments. No proof has been given that shows that any minor in Indiana has received surgical intervention, which is not reversible.

- The ACLU has filed a lawsuit against the measure on behalf of four transgender minors. **A federal judge issued an order on Friday, June 16, stopping an Indiana ban on puberty blockers and hormones for transgender minors from taking effect as scheduled July 1**

- Both types of treatments are still allowed for cisgender children without a gender dysphoria diagnosis.

Needed supports:

Support for youth serving organizations to provide safe, affirming spaces for trans youth.

Guidance on healthcare options for trans youth if/when law goes into effect (currently in court)

Supports for families who want to provide affirming healthcare for their children.



•SB 12: Material Harmful to Minors/HB1447 Education Matters:

- Will classify literature "harmful to minors" under the same umbrella as certain books with obscenities, like pornography, that already are not allowed. Librarians who violate the law could be charged with a Level 6 felony, which includes up to two and a half years in jail with a \$10,000 fine.
- Will require school libraries to establish a book review process — a measure already present in most libraries — publish a catalogue of books online and lower the bar on what books can be pulled.

Impact:

Number of book challenges made to libraries
Accessibility of books reflecting diverse perspectives

Needed supports:

Education for librarians to know their rights
Common understanding of the policies in place at each library for people to bring up book challenges

Thank You!

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Advocacy Resources:

<https://mccoyouth.org/advocacy/advocacy-resources/>

Sarah's Statehouse Sound-off

<https://mccoyouth.org/advocacy/advocacy-statehouse-sound-off/>

