

## Weekly Newsletter

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### Preparing Indiana's Kids for the Future



Is our education system preparing our children to become well-rounded adults? I was a high school student in the late 1970s when technology was just beginning to infiltrate our everyday lives. The capacity of the huge computers of the '70s is now surpassed in our cell phones. Today, kids spend a large part of their days glued to high-tech devices, falling behind in social skills and other skills critical for success.



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Some millennials were raised by parents who focused on their emotional health and comfort, rescuing them from facing the consequences of their mistakes rather than teaching personal responsibility. Today, as these indulged children become parents, it's no surprise that fathers dodge responsibility and mothers are unprepared to face the hardships of parenting. This can leave grandparents, or the foster care system, left to raise their kids.

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### Weekly Newsletter #3



Indeed, the foster care system in Indiana is growing at an unsustainable rate. Approximately 9,200 children were in foster care as of June 30, according to the Indiana Department of Child Services. (Learn more here [https://stateaffairs.com/indiana/social-issues/indiana-foster-children/?utm\\_source=newsletter&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=in\\_single\\_send](https://stateaffairs.com/indiana/social-issues/indiana-foster-children/?utm_source=newsletter&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=in_single_send))

One way to address this issue is to create better future parents. Our education system is relied on as daycare for single mothers and for households where both parents must work to survive. However, we are failing both in academics and in teaching life skills. Academic shortfalls are evidenced by the latest SAT scores released by the Indiana Department of Education. They indicate a 4.4% decrease in college-ready students graduating from high school. Only 24% are prepared for college!

Equally important, our education system doesn't focus on basic life skills such as financial literacy, communication, time management, and critical thinking—competencies that are critical for success. Skills taught in school should also include good parenting. We can use our educational system as a foundation that can produce better parents and more competent adults.



Indiana House Representative Julie McGuire is a child advocate in the Indiana Legislature. She has worked on several bills concerning the welfare of children. One bill she co-authored is HB 1210 Child in Need of Services. This bill defines the process through which a child can be removed from a family. The bill did not pass.

Can the government help solve the growing problem of kids unprepared for college and unprepared to be a parent? I think it can.

I believe the answer begins with education!

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REACH OUT  
FOR A CHAT

**Let's chat!**

LET'S DO  
SOMETHING-  
TOGETHER

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