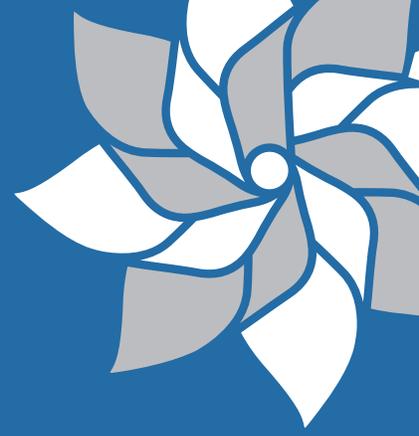


2020 LEGISLATIVE PRIORITY: HOME SCHOOL REGISTRATION



PCA Iowa asks the Iowa legislature to enact legislation to require parents wishing to educate their children through Private Instruction (Independent Private Instruction or Competent Private Instruction) to submit an annual notification of intent to home school to their local school district.

Iowa prides itself as a leader in education and a great place to raise a family. Iowans value a parent's right to determine the best educational setting for their children. Homeschooling can be a useful educational framework for Iowa children.

Many home school families collaborate with their local public school district to provide education supports for students and families as well as extra-curricular activities such as music or athletics.

Risks of unregistered home schooled students

- Homeschooling can sometimes be used as a means to isolate, abuse, and neglect children, resulting in extreme trauma or even death.
- The 2012-2013 school year was the last time the Iowa Department of Education collected information about homeschool student populations. At that time 2.3% of Iowa school-aged children were homeschooled (10,732 students).

2.3% OF IOWA
KIDS ARE
HOMESCHOOLED

Registration benefits children and parents

- An annual notification of intent to home school creates opportunity for collaboration between home school families and their local school district.
- Annual home-school registration with a local public school superintendent's office improves child protection for the more than 10,000 youth who are home schooled in Iowa.

Prevent Child Abuse Iowa empowers community prevention efforts to provide safe and happy childhoods through collaboration with diverse partners, leading to a better future for Iowa.

2020 LEGISLATIVE PRIORITY: SEXUAL ABUSE PREVENTION



PCA Iowa requests the Iowa legislature to enact a sexual abuse prevention policy for Iowa's children.

Sexual abuse prevention in Iowa schools builds protective factors for Iowa children, creating safer learning environments and better student achievement for all children.

Safety from sexual abuse and exploitation begins by equipping adults working in a school system with knowledge and processes to recognize and respond to boundary violating behaviors, providing training on appropriate interventions, and developing internal school systems of reporting.

Prevent Child Abuse Iowa requests the Iowa legislature to enacting legislation requiring schools to provide training and supports for awareness and prevention of child sexual abuse and sexual assault in schools.

Recognizing and reporting

- Most teachers don't receive training in preventing, recognizing, or responding to child sexual abuse, either in their college coursework, or as part of their professional development.
- 87% of teachers say they would not report sexual abuse, even if a child disclosed to them, while only 11% of teachers said they would not report a case of suspected physical abuse or neglect.
- The most common reasons for not reporting suspected child sexual abuse was their lack of confidence in their ability to identify it, and to respond appropriately to suspicions.
- More than 80% of child molesters identified in schools or youth-serving organizations have no prior criminal records, according to national risk management experts.

**2 OUT OF 3 TEACHERS
ARE NOT TRAINED TO**



**PREVENT, RECOGNIZE, OR RESPOND
TO CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE**

Disclosure

- 60% of children sexually abused never report the abuse.
- In the year following training, educators in Texas increased their reports of child sexual abuse to authorities by 283%.

2020 LEGISLATIVE PRIORITY:

SEXUAL ABUSE PREVENTION



Prevalence of Sexual Abuse in Iowa

- One in ten adults in Iowa report being sexually abused as a child.
- Four in ten Iowans diagnosed with HIV report being sexually abused as a child.
- According to the National Department of Education, one in ten K-12 students will suffer sexual misconduct from school personnel, coaches, or volunteers. This translates to 54,500 Iowa students enrolled in public or non-public education (not including home-schooled students).
- Children with special needs are at higher risk of sexual abuse.



Sexual abuse and exploitation impacts student learning outcomes

Childhood trauma impacts student learning. In a study of sexually abused children, cognitive ability, memory scores, and academic achievement, were lower than their peers.

- 48% reported below average grades
- 24% repeated a grade
- 15% were enrolled in remedial classes
- A higher percentage failed to graduate compared to their non-abused peers

The cost of sexual abuse of students in school

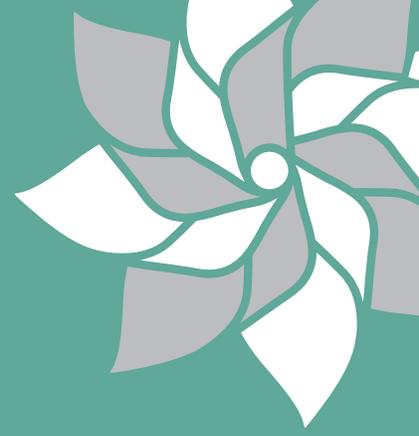
- Insurance claims of sexual assault by school employees or volunteers have increased more than 250% in the last 3 years from \$270,000 to over \$2 million, totaling more than \$4 million in claim payments.
- Sexual abuse of students by school teachers, staff and volunteers negatively impacts school reputation, and creates an unsafe learning environment for students.
- Sexual abuse affects the mental health and wellbeing of students and can lead to substance abuse, depression, and suicidal intentions.

Prevent Child Abuse Iowa empowers community prevention efforts to provide safe and happy childhoods through collaboration with diverse partners, leading to a better future for Iowa.

¹Iowa ACEs data published June, 2016, Central Iowa ACEs 360, Prevent Child Abuse Iowa

²The Impact of Child Sexual Abuse Training for Educators on Reporting and Victim Outcomes: The Texas Educator Initiative, January, 2016, Catherine Townsend

2020 LEGISLATIVE PRIORITY: CHILD AND FAMILY RESILIENCE



PCA Iowa asks the Iowa legislature to create trauma-informed policies that prioritize prevention and protective factors.

Resilience means the ability to thrive despite adversity. The Iowa Legislature and Governor must promote resilience in the state starting with its youngest citizens. Promoting child health—starting at infancy—helps Iowa grow a strong and prosperous workforce.

Adversity in childhood has a direct impact on an individual's health outcomes and social functioning. Approximately one in five Iowa children has experienced three or more Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs), the most common being divorced or separated parents and having lived with someone with a substance-use problem or mental health condition. Children with three or more ACEs have higher odds of failing to engage and flourish in school.

The impact of ACEs in Iowa is evident through the rise in caseloads in the DHS, the acceleration of the opioid epidemic—which is both driving and affected by family dysfunction—and rising health care costs associated with adult chronic illness. The policies below will assist parents in getting the services they need and helping get and keep more money in the parents' pockets to support the family.

Expansion of First Five to all 99 counties

- Iowa must expand First Five to all 99 counties. It is currently only in 88. First Five is a public/private partnership sponsored by the Iowa Department of Public Health. It is comprised of public and private primary care providers. The program supports primary health care providers in early detection of social, emotional, and developmental delays and risk-related factors in the birth to five populations. The 11 counties without First Five access are Lyon, Sioux, Plymouth, Cherokee, Woodbury, Ida, Jackson, Clinton, Scott, Iowa and Johnson.

Increase in Child Care Assistance Cap

- Iowa must increase the Child Care Assistance Cap from 145% of the poverty level to 185%. This will allow parents to continue to receive child care assistance while earning up to \$39,460 instead of losing their assistance as the point they make \$1 more than \$30,920.

Increase in Earned Income Tax Credit

- Increase the Earned Income Tax Credit for low and moderate income wage earners.

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