

State of Iowa Youth Advisory Council

2025 Legislative Priorities



Improvement of Youth Voter Registration

Clarify and enforce Iowa Code §48A.23 to expand and improve the turnout of Iowa youth voter registration by more clearly defining an “opportunity to register to vote to each student who is at least seventeen years of age.” This should be defined as two days within the school year where students who are at least 17 years old will be allowed to register to vote in their school during school hours and a two-hour excused absence to vote on election day.



Student Representation on School Boards

Re-introduce HF658 from the 2024 Legislative Session, a bill authorizing boards of directors of school districts to appoint student liaisons to their boards. This bill would ensure school boards attention to students needs as well as advance student engagement, civic education and overall community involvement.



Inclusive Disability Education for Teachers

Amend Iowa Code to require a state-mandated, in-person or online inclusive disability education training for teachers. This will allow teachers the ability to educate students with disabilities in an inclusive environment while remaining engaged with their peers.



Mental Health Resource Accessibility

Create legislation to require mental health resources and information be provided on school websites and create a requirement for schools to collaborate with students in developing additional strategies to increase awareness of mental health support. This would assure students they aren't alone and provide a supportive environment for them.

This content represents the opinions of youth in the State of Iowa Youth Advisory Council and does not reflect the opinions of the State of Iowa Department of Health and Human Services.

For more information, please contact:
Hadley Harvey, SIYAC Chair:
conduco25@gmail.com