

## CHILD SERVICES OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE REPORT FROM THE INDIANA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

The Indiana Department of Education has various initiatives, guidance materials and resources to assist schools in their collaboration with the Indiana Department of Child Services. An overview of these items include:

- DCS Education Services
  - DCS Education Services webpage: <https://www.in.gov/dcs/3958.htm>
  - DCS Education Liaisons
  - DCS Education Services Resource Tool for Educators
  
- School Notification form – used to identify new students that may be enrolled in a school due to a change in placement (i.e. foster care). Includes the name of the student, legal guardian, and reason for DCS involvement.
  
- Annual Notification of Continuation of Placement in School form – used to notify a school of a youth who attended that school at the end of the previous year, but does not live in their normal attendance area, and will be returning to that school again this year. Includes the name of the student, legal guardian, school, home or facility placement, and the name of the family case manager.
  
- Social, Emotional, and Behavioral Wellness Division within IDOE
  - Christy Berger – Assistant Director
  - Jeff Wittman – School Social Work and Foster Youth Specialist Foster Youth
    - Children in foster care are some of the most educationally disadvantaged students. Studies show that students in foster care experience: school suspensions and expulsions at higher rates than their peers not in foster care, lower standardized test scores in reading and math, high levels of grade retention and drop-out, and far lower high school and college graduation rates.
  - Courtney Hott – School Counselor
  - Jessica Yoder – Project AWARE (Advancing Wellness and Resilience Education)
    - Purpose is to build capacity of state educational agencies, in partnership with state mental health agencies (SAMHSA) to increase awareness of mental health issues, provide training for school personnel, and connect youth and families to needed services
    - Five year grant – partnering with 3 school corporations (Avon Community Schools, Perry Central Community Schools, and Vigo County Schools)

- **Mandatory Staff Training**
  - Suicide Prevention
  - Bullying Prevention
  - Child Abuse and Neglect
  - Criminal Organization Policy
  - Human Trafficking
  - Indiana Education for Homeless Children and Youth
  
- **Indiana Child Fatality Review Committee**
  - IDOE is an active member
  - Collaboration with multiple organizations (ISDH, Prosecutor's Office, Coroner, Pediatrician, DCS, Law Enforcement, EMS, IDOE, Pathology, Mental Health Provider, Child Abuse Prevention Program, Epidemiologist and others)
  
- **Educational Outcomes Task Force**
  - Subcommittee of the Commission on Improving the Status of Children in Indiana
  - Co-chaired by IDOE and DCS