



Public policy
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of children.



Michigan Association
of Community and
Adult Education

FamilySpeak: Building Family Literacy Through Adult Education

Wednesday, October 28, 2015

Speaker's Library, State Capitol

Momentum is building around the state, led by the Governor and key members of the House of Representatives and the Senate, to improve 3rd grade reading in Michigan, with key investments included in the recently passed state budget. However, the lack of attention to assisting parents to engage in their children's learning will hamper the state's ability to improve literacy outcomes for all children all over the state. Research has consistently shown the impact of parental education on children's success in school and in life; after all, the child's first school is the home, and their first teachers are their parents and caregivers. When 42,000 Michiganders ages 18-34 have less than a ninth grade education, an assumption cannot be made about parents' ability to engage in their children's learning.

To assist with this discussion, Michigan's Children, the Michigan Association of Community and Adult Education, and key legislative leaders are bringing together parents and other caregivers of young children, legislators and other key policymaking partners for constructive legislative solutions-oriented conversations to support family literacy, basic skill building and paths to secondary and post-secondary credentials through a FamilySpeak forum at the State Capitol on Wednesday, October 28, 2015.

Agenda in Brief:

8:30 – 9:30 a.m.	Family Orientation and Breakfast
9:30 – 10:00 a.m.	Listener Registration
10:00 – 11:30 a.m.	Family Testimony
11:30 a.m. – noon	Listener Questions
12:00 – 1:00 p.m.	Informal Reception and Conversation with Parents, Lawmakers & Sponsoring Programs

This FamilySpeak has been made possible by the voices of the families supported through:

The Michigan Association of Community and Adult Education works to provide a cohesive framework for community education through collaboration and guidance at the local, state and federal level. MACAE's vision is to engage in partnerships, provide member support and advocate for lifelong learning, leading to employment and self-sufficient families.

Confirmed Family Speakers:

Paulette Bigio, Saginaw

William Burnes, Livingston County

Cynthia Davis, Saginaw

Angela Delgado, Godfrey Lee-Kentwood, Kent County

Janielle Destin, Novi, Oakland County

Chris Feltman, Mt. Pleasant, Isabella County

April Flores, Novi, Oakland County

Justine Geiger, Novi, Oakland County

Leslie Gilbert, Saginaw

Sagal Kalih, Okemos, Ingham County

James Moore, Detroit

Earl Paulton, White Lake, Muskegon County

Noor Salim, Troy, Oakland County

Zipporia Sherrod, Detroit

Bob Switzer, Oakland County

Yojana De La Cruz Valdez, Mt. Pleasant, Isabella County

Michigan's Children is the only statewide independent voice working to ensure that policymakers prioritize the needs of the most challenged children from cradle to career and their families. We have been creating opportunities for young people, parents and other community members to share their stories, concerns and suggestions directly with policymakers since 1996, and continue to find new ways to provide young people, families and the supporting professionals around them the tools that they need to advocate on their own behalf.

FamilySpeak, modeled after Michigan's Children's signature KidSpeak® forums, mimics a traditional legislative committee hearing. These forums have been facilitated since 1996. Connecting the experiences of families directly with policymakers has provided firsthand knowledge of the challenges and opportunities and has proven to be an effective advocacy strategy. Their voices have changed the trajectory of policy conversation and have resulted in additional champions for parent-driven solutions in the Legislature, several Departments and other local policymaking bodies.

For more information about this FamilySpeak or other opportunities to hear directly from young people or their families, please contact Michele Corey, Vice President for Programs, at 517-977-0322 or michele@michiganschildren.org.

Confirmed Listening Panelists:

Karen Aldridge-Eason, Governor's Office of the Foundation Liaison

Brian Barber, Michigan Department of Education, Office of Education Improvement and Innovation

Brittany Bartkowiak, State of Opportunity, Michigan Radio

John Bindas, School-Community Health Alliance of Michigan

Jeffrey Brown, Communities in Schools of Michigan

Kittie Butcher, M.S.U. Extension Educator, Children Youth Families & Communities

Connie Cox, Milan Community Education

Sarai Embaye, Foster Care Alumni Association -- Michigan

Khadija Walker Fobbs, Michigan Youth Opportunities Initiative

Hon. Geoff Hansen, Michigan Senate

Hon. Jon Hoadley, Michigan House of Representatives

Hon. Marcia Hovey-Wright, Michigan House of Representatives

Hon. Bert Johnson, Michigan Senate

Tangie Jones, Michigan Economic Development Corporation

Gary Jones, Congressman Dan Kildee

Janet Kaley, Michigan Department of Health and Human Services, Education and Youth Unit

Todd Martlett, Romulus Public Schools

Desmond Miller, State Rep. Adam Zemke

Hon. Amanda Price, Michigan House of Representatives

Pamela Pugh, State Board of Education

Peter Ruark, Michigan League for Public Policy

Hon. Jim Runestad, Michigan House of Representatives

Hon. Andy Schor, Michigan House of Representatives

Mary Shinkle, Congressman Mike Bishop

Kathryn Summers, Senate Fiscal Agency

Vanessa Winborne, Michigan Department of Education, *Early On*

Hon. Adam Zemke, Michigan House of Representatives