



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Evansville Branch NAACP Education Committee to Host 2025 Town Hall on New Indiana Education Laws

Evansville, Indiana — The Evansville NAACP Indiana Education Committee is convening a critical Town Hall Meeting on Thursday, September 11, welcoming educators, parents, students, policy-makers, and community leaders to engage in an open, informative dialogue about the sweeping education reforms recently enacted by the Indiana General Assembly in July 2025. Confirmed panelist include Representative Alex Burton, EVSC Superintendent Darla Hoover, Senator Vaneta Becker, Rev. Melissa Morehead, and EVSC Board President Karen Ragland.

According to Evansville Branch NAACP President, Ed Lander, "Attending school board meetings and council meetings is like being in someone else's environment. We're intentionally having the meeting in a local Black church. It's a place where people can feel very comfortable, regardless of their background.

Perhaps they don't receive all the answers they want, but they have an open and honest dialogue, and they feel confident that the new school superintendent, school board members, Senator Becker, and Representative Burton are being open and transparent with them. This is just a starting point."

What's Changing in Indiana Education:

The 2025 legislative session produced a sweeping array of education-related changes, many of which take effect in the 2025–26 school year:

- Over two dozen K-12 education laws are set to go into effect on July 1, 2025, including adjustments to classroom instruction, attendance policies, teacher compensation, and budget allocations ([Indiana Capital Chronicle](#), [Yahoo News](#))
- Repeal of the ethnic studies course requirement in high schools—a sudden change made during the final stages of legislative negotiations ([Axios](#)).

- A shift to partisan school board elections, for the first time in Indiana's history ([Axios](#)).
- Reintroduction of A-F school accountability grades, albeit in a revised format ([Axios](#)).
- Expansion of the private school voucher program to all families—a controversial move amid state budget constraints and critiques that it may undercut resources for low-income students ([Axios](#)).
- Mandates for fetal development education in sex ed, relaxed student transfer rules, and faster reporting of bullying ([Mirror Indy](#))
- Removal of DEI language and instruction from educational institutions and state agencies ([Mirror Indy](#), [NAACP 3053 Website](#), [NAACP](#), [Wikipedia](#)).

Town Hall Details

- Date: Thursday, September 11, 2025
- Time: 6-7:30 p.m.
- Location: Gymnasium of Memorial Baptist Church,
- Format: Panel discussions, Q&A sessions, and public comment periods; Refreshments will be served

Purpose & Objectives

- Inform & Educate — Provide attendees with clear explanations of recently enacted laws and how they will concretely affect classrooms, school funding, administrative operations, and student experiences.
- Engage the Community — Offer a platform for educators, parents, students, and advocates to ask questions, express concerns, and share insights in an inclusive setting.
- Shape Future Advocacy — Gather community feedback to help the NAACP Education Committee develop policy priorities, action plans, and advocacy strategies.

Who Should Attend

- Educators & School Leaders grappling with implementation challenges.
- Parents & Students concerned about educational equity and student welfare.
- Community Advocates & Civil Rights Groups, aligning with NAACP's mission to protect access to quality education.
- Policy-Makers & Media, staying informed on community needs and responses.

About the Evansville NAACP Indiana Education Committee

"The Education Committee of the Evansville Branch NAACP is committed to ensuring that every student in our county receives an equitable and excellent education. We work tirelessly to achieve this through various initiatives:

- Advocating for fair distribution of resources across schools to ensure all students have access to quality education regardless of their background.
- Improving the quality of teaching in schools to elevate overall educational standards.
- Promoting parental engagement within EVSC's educational system to strengthen the partnership between schools and families.
- Supporting early childhood literacy programs to lay a solid foundation for academic success. Moreover, the Committee is actively engaged in:

- Enhancing the effectiveness, transparency, and accessibility of EVSC Public Schools to better serve the diverse student population.
- Addressing and mitigating any disparities in the placement of minority youth in special education programs within EVSC.
- Advocating for affirmative action policies and equitable funding for higher education institutions.
- Lobbying for the maintenance and expansion of financial aid programs, including PELL grants, to support EVSC students pursuing post-secondary education.
- Ultimately, our primary goal within the Evansville Branch NAACP is to eliminate any racial and ethnic disparities in education and ensure that every student has the opportunity to thrive academically.