

Indiana Coalition for Public Education—Monroe County
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

INDIANA COALITION FOR PUBLIC EDUCATION PRESENTS FORUM ON SPECIAL EDUCATION
IN THE DEVOS ERA

Panelists will include a parent, special education teacher, community advocate, specialist in school law, and director of a teacher certification program

Bloomington, Indiana—Serving students with special needs is a crucial and resource-intensive mission for any public school system. In Indiana, special education students comprise 15% of the student population, and each child's needs and challenges are unique. Federal law, state policy, funding, and teacher training all affect the resources that families encounter as they navigate the academic experience with their children. "Special Education in the Betsy DeVos Era: a Panel Discussion About Meeting Children's Needs" will bring stakeholders together for conversation on Thursday, October 26, from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m., in the auditorium of the Monroe County Public Library, 303 E. Kirkwood Avenue in Bloomington.

Topics will include how to advocate for your child; what a community-based classroom looks like; connecting families with resources inside and outside the school system; why we need certified special education teachers; potential impacts of new diploma pathways on students with special needs; and how so-called "education savings accounts" would weaken protections for students with individualized education programs (IEPs) and threaten existing funding for special education services.

Panelists will include Kathrina Cox, a special education teacher in the Monroe County Community School Corporation; Janet Decker, professor of educational leadership and policy studies in the Indiana University School of Education; Wendy Marencik, clinical professor in the Indiana University School of Education and co-director of the Teaching All Learners program; parent Audi McCullough; and Paula Teague, a regional program specialist with IN*Source.

After discussing their experiences and roles in special education, panelists will answer questions from the audience in a moderated format. Questions will be gathered during the panel, but can also be submitted in advance to icpe.mc@gmail.com.

This event is sponsored by the Indiana Coalition for Public Education--Monroe County (<http://icpe-monroecounty.org/>).

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For further information, please contact Cathy Fuentes-Rohwer at 812-320-4400.