

The State of Iowa Youth Advisory Council (SIYAC) became a formal council in 2009 with the passage of legislation (Iowa Code 216A.140.8).

SIYAC consists of 21 youth members from around the state, who serve two year terms. We advocate for youth issues with policymakers (legislators, Governor's Office, and state agencies) and seek input from other Iowa youth.

This year, we have three priority areas: health, mental health, and education. SIYAC also partners with Iowa Youth Congress and Achieving Maximum Potential (AMP), which are also youth-led entities advocating for youth issues. In addition, SIYAC assists specific initiatives like Reach Out and Read, Team Nutrition, and Your Life Iowa.



## Contact Us on Youth Issues



SIYAC members meeting with Lt. Governor Kim Reynolds on December 11, 2013

During the 2014 legislative session, you will be dealing with bills that directly affect youth. When you need young people's opinion and perspective, contact us at [SIYAC@iowa.gov](mailto:SIYAC@iowa.gov).

2014 SIYAC Prioritized Issues:

- ⇒ **HF187-Cyberbullying**  
(In partnership with our sister organization Iowa Youth Congress)
- ⇒ **SF337-Suicide Prevention Training**  
(SIYAC Mental Health Committee)
- ⇒ **HF89-Foreign Language In Elementary Schools**  
(SIYAC Education Committee)
- ⇒ **Social Studies/Writing on Standardized Tests**  
(SIYAC Education Committee)
- ⇒ **SF248-Tanning Restrictions for Minors**  
(SIYAC Health Committee)

For more information visit <http://www.icyd.org/SIYAC/about.html>

SIYAC is passionate about young people having a voice in government and would be glad to provide youth perspectives and thoughts on any issue. We encourage members of the Iowa Legislature to contact us as a resource on youth issues.

Contact SIYAC's office at 515-725-2836, or by e-mail at [SIYAC@iowa.gov](mailto:SIYAC@iowa.gov).

The 2014 SIYAC members are:

Name	Office Held	City	School
<b>Sai Rohit Abbaraju</b>	<i>Mental Health Committee Chair</i>	Johnston	Johnston High School
<b>Rohan Aggarwal</b>		Clinton	Clinton High School
<b>Joel Baumann</b>		Grinnell	Grinnell High School
<b>Nicholas Beckwith</b>		Clinton	Clinton High School
<b>Jacob Bundt</b>		Churdan	Paton-Churdan High School
<b>Anne Edwards</b>		Dubuque	Dubuque Senior High School
<b>Agatha Fenech</b>	<i>Public Relations Chair</i>	Cedar Falls	Cedar Falls High School
<b>Pablo Haake</b>	<i>Executive Chair</i>	Davenport	Davenport Central High School
<b>Rekha Karuparth</b>	<i>Secretary</i>	Bettendorf	Pleasant Valley High School
<b>Marissa Kephart</b>		Carlisle	Carlisle High School
<b>Mary Korch</b>	<i>Service Chair</i>	Cedar Rapids	Cedar Rapids Jefferson High School
<b>Jake Mathahs</b>	<i>Legislative Affairs Chair</i>	Marengo	Iowa Valley High School
<b>Jenna McCoy</b>		Estherville	Spirit Lake High School
<b>Katie Melbourne</b>		Bettendorf	Pleasant Valley High School
<b>Logina Mostafa</b>	<i>Health Committee Chair</i>	Bettendorf	Pleasant Valley High School
<b>Sruthi Palaniappan</b>	<i>Education Committee Chair</i>	Cedar Rapids	Linn-Mar High School
<b>Danielle Reyes</b>		Clive	West Des Moines Valley High School
<b>Luke Theuma</b>	<i>Vice Executive Chair</i>	Des Moines	Roosevelt High School
<b>Benjamin Votroubek</b>		Keokuk	Holy Trinity High School
<b>Cody Woodruff</b>		Carlisle	Carlisle High School

SIYAC Coordinator:

Betsy Penisten

AmeriCorps Member serving at

Iowa Department of Human Rights

515-725-2836

[Betsy.Penisten@iowa.gov](mailto:Betsy.Penisten@iowa.gov)

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