



Ensure the Safety of School-Aged Children

By Not Allowing A School Enrollment Change During an Abuse or Neglect Investigation

All children deserve to be safe, and that safety is the responsibility of the adults in their lives. In cases where child abuse or neglect is suspected, and the Department for Community Based Services has an open case, Kentucky can ensure the child's continued safety by preventing school enrollment changes that take a child away from adults they trust at school until the case is resolved.

Children deserve to be safe and maintain connections with trusted adults:

Caring adults outside the home can help keep children in vulnerable situations safe

During an active child abuse or neglect investigation, or while a family is working with state services to stay together safely, it is important that the child maintains connections with adults who know and care about them—including those in their school environment. During these critical times when safety is of the highest importance, the child's school setting should remain the same.

Stable school environments help kids feel supported during times of transition

Kentucky has recently taken strides to protect children from abuse and neglect, along with prioritizing the educational stability of children in foster care, and leaders can continue that momentum by taking reasonable steps during ongoing Department for Community Based Services cases. The safety and stability that school environments provide 180 days out of the year is key to helping kids feel supported and maintain a sense of normalcy during difficult times.

Blueprint for Kentucky's Children Solution:

Ensure the safety of school-aged children by not allowing a school enrollment change during an abuse or neglect investigation.