



Help Kids Grow Up In Healthy School Environments

By Enacting a Statewide
Tobacco-Free School
Campus Policy

Health impacts every aspect of a child's life and is one of the most important components of overall child well-being. Healthy school environments help kids grow up better prepared for future health and success. Enacting a statewide, comprehensive tobacco-free school campus policy, which includes the use of e-cigarettes, vapes, and smokeless tobacco on school property, would prevent students from starting to use those products and protect children and teens from the harms of secondhand tobacco and e-cigarette vapor exposure.

Kentucky kids will grow into healthy, working adults when we prioritize their health in school today:

Healthy school campus policies reinforce the message that tobacco and e-cigarettes are harmful

Each year in Kentucky, 2,900 youth become daily smokers, and nationally about three out of four teen smokers end up smoking into adulthood. Students in school districts across the commonwealth depend on state leaders to implement policies that can keep tobacco from jeopardizing their health and future opportunities. Currently, only 42 percent of Kentucky public school districts have adopted tobacco-free policies to protect students, faculty, staff, and visitors. All students and student athletes deserve a school campus that prioritizes their health and safety.

Curb the explosion of e-cigarette use among teens

Nicotine is a highly addictive drug and adolescents are particularly vulnerable to its effects. E-cigarettes, like Juuls, contain varying levels of nicotine and can cause lasting damage to adolescent brain development, among other negative health outcomes. The peak years for first trying tobacco products, which includes e-cigarette and vape, are in the 6th and 7th grades, or between the ages of 11 and 13. National data shows a surge in use of these products, with an increase of 78 percent among high-school students and 48 percent among middle-school students in the past year.

Blueprint for Kentucky's Children Solution:

Enact a statewide, comprehensive tobacco-free school campus policy to help kids grow into healthy adults.