Innovative Strategies for Effective Advocacy
Kentucky Youth Advocates believes all children deserve to be safe, healthy, and secure. As THE independent voice for Kentucky's children, we work to ensure policymakers create investments and policies that are good for children.

www.kyyouth.org

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The Governor and Cabinet Members
• Each play a major role in policy by influencing legislation and establishing administrative regulations

The Kentucky State Legislature
• Made of part-time legislators
• House
  • 100 members
  • Elected every 2 years
• Senate
  • 38 members
  • Elected every 4 years

You can find out who your legislators are at www.lrc.ky.gov or at kyyouth.org
How are decisions made?

- The Kentucky General Assembly meets beginning in January for 60 days in even years for session and to create 2-year state budget and meets for 30 days in odd years for session.

- The state budget process begins in the fall prior to the legislative session. All three branches of government must submit their proposals early in the legislative session, and negotiations and revisions continue throughout the session.
How does a bill become a law?

Step 1: Bill is introduced in the State Senate or House.

Step 2: Committee on Committees sends bill to a committee.

Step 3: Bill is reported from committee or left to die.

Step 4: Bill is given first reading and placed on calendar.

Step 5: Bill is given second reading and sent to Rules Committee.

Step 6: Rules Committee places on order of day for a vote or recommit bill to committee.

Step 7: If passed, bill goes to other Chamber to undergo same process.

Step 8: If passed by both House and Senate, bill goes to the Governor for his signature.

Step 9: Bill is either, signed by Governor, becomes law without signature or vetoed.

Step 10: If vetoed, bill goes back to chambers. If veto is overridden by a constitutional majority in both House & Senate, it becomes law.

Kentucky Revised Statutes

Legislation Fails
Advocacy & Why It's Important
Advocacy is:

• Providing data or research on an issue or policy
• Sharing experiences that can help inform a legislator
• Building relationships with policymakers
• Asking your legislators to support legislation as their constituent
• Spreading the word with your networks about policies that are good for kids
Ways to Take Action on Behalf of Kids & Families
Learn who your legislators are so you know who to call, write, follow on social media, and meet with!

Use our new legislator lookup tool at kyyouth.org/advocacy.
Because kids can't vote, they rely on the adults in their life to vote and speak up on their behalf.

Kids count on their leaders to prioritize them, and on you to let the leaders know what they need to succeed.

View action alerts at kyyouth.org.
Tips for Meeting with Your Legislator

Meet with your legislators to discuss issues in more detail.

**Before** –
Make an appointment and do your homework

**During** –
Be friendly and professional

**After** –
Thank you note and follow up

Kentucky youth Advocates
Tips for Writing Your Legislator

Email or write a letter to your legislators to share your story and opinion on an issue.

- Address the letter or email with the legislator's title—Senator or Representative.
- If you have a personal story about the issue, share it.
- If you are writing in support/opposition to a bill, try to include both the bill's title and number.
- Include only one issue per letter.
- Be sure to include your name and address so they know you are their constituent.
Tips for Calling Your Legislator

- Inform the operator that you are a constituent and would like to convey your opinion on an issue.
- They will ask your basic information, including your name and address.
- Convey your opinion on the specific issue. For example, “As a constituent, I want Senator Doe to vote YES on Senate Bill X.”
- If you are asked a question you cannot answer, simply say “I do not know.”

Call your legislators to communicate a brief opinion.
Stay Informed

- Know the research and data.
- Sign up for Kentucky Youth Advocates email listserv.
- Read Kentucky Youth Advocates blog.
- Utilize social media
  - Follow KYA at @kyyouth and facebook.com/KentuckyYouthAdvocates.
  - Use hashtags #kyga18 and #BlueprintKY
- Kentucky General Assembly Bill Tracker
- Blueprint for Kentucky's Children
What gets measured, gets changed.

Find both at kyyouth.org.
Be a megaphone for kids!

Kentucky kids are counting on you to speak up on their behalf!