



Kentucky can...

Create safe and nurturing learning environments by eliminating the use of corporal punishment in schools

Kentucky students need learning environments that are safe and nurturing. Across Kentucky, school districts are shifting their focus to how to best serve children who've experienced trauma, but several districts still allow the use of corporal punishment, or physical force, as a form of discipline. For children in schools that use corporal punishment, the classroom can become an environment that instills fear, anxiety, and distrust.

Quick facts about corporal punishment in schools in Kentucky:

- While the number of children in Kentucky experiencing corporal punishment at school has fallen, there were **284 incidences in the 2018-19 school year**.
- 60% of Kentucky school districts already explicitly prohibit the use of corporal punishment.
- Boys receive corporal punishment much more often than girls.
- Students with disabilities are slightly more likely to receive corporal punishment.

Corporal punishment reinforces using physical aggression as a way to address unwanted behavior and creates a threatening atmosphere that permeates school culture



which leads to

Immediate impacts on the child's physical and mental health



and

Long-term impacts that result in negative behaviors, such as aggression and delinquency, along with poor educational outcomes, such as dropping out

Blueprint for Kentucky's Children Solution:

Eliminating the use of corporal punishment in schools to create safe and nurturing learning environments for students