



Kentucky can...

Prioritize school-based services that promote student safety, health, and well-being

Kentucky schools are safer when the focus is on connecting students with caring adults, addressing students' behavioral health needs, and utilizing proven strategies to address other safety measures within school buildings. In 2019, the Kentucky General Assembly demonstrated their commitment to improving student safety, health, and well-being with passage of the School Safety and Resiliency Act.

Kentucky can continue that progress by:

Providing funding for requirements of the School Safety and Resiliency Act

- Trainings for school staff on how to recognize and respond when students have experienced trauma
- Trainings for students and school staff on suicide awareness and prevention
- Trainings for School Resource Officers on trauma-informed action, youth mental health, diversity and bias, and working with students with special needs
- Safety improvements of school buildings that meet evidence-based structural recommendations

Ensuring school districts have the information and resources to implement the Free Care policy

With recent federal approval, school districts are now able to bill Medicaid for health services provided to Medicaid eligible students within the school building, an opportunity known as Free Care. School districts can use this new funding stream to connect students with physical and behavioral health screenings, counseling, immunizations, and dental care. Kentucky can ensure school districts have the information and resources needed to leverage this opportunity to improve student health and well-being.

16%
of Kentucky
10th graders
have seriously
considered
attempting suicide

Boosting investment in Family Resource and Youth Service Centers

Family Resource and Youth Service Centers (FRYSCs) enhance student success by making referrals to health and social services, connecting families to afterschool care, supporting kinship caregivers, and more. They are integral in providing tools for families to remove barriers to student learning. For a school to be eligible for a FRYSC, 20% or more of enrolled students are eligible for free or reduced-price school meals. While the number of students receiving free lunch has risen, the FRYSC-per-student allocation has not kept up.

Blueprint for Kentucky's Children Solution:

Providing funding for requirements of the School Safety and Resiliency Act, ensuring school districts have the information and resources to implement the Free Care policy, and boosting investment in FRYSCs