



Kentucky can...



Ensure kids have a safe environment to learn, free from abuse

A safe learning environment is critical to students' health, well-being, and quality education. Students are in school over 6 hours per day, 180 days per year and their parents trust the teachers and school faculty to keep their children safe from abuse while providing essential knowledge to prepare them for adulthood.

By strengthening schools' ability to keep kids safe from adults with allegations or substantiations of sexual misconduct, we can prevent child abuse and promote a safe and caring learning environment.

Child sexual abuse by the numbers:

- In Kentucky in 2021, there were 831 victims of child sexual abuse substantiated.
- African American children face almost twice the risk for sexual abuse compared to their White peers.
- Sexual abuse is 2.5 times more likely among lesbian, gay, and bisexual (LGB) youth.
- Delayed disclosure of abuse and not disclosing abuse is very common of survivors, with just 26% of cases disclosed to adults and 12% of cases disclosed to authorities nationally.

Nationally, 10% of children are sexually abused.



Prevention Strategies to Keep Students Safe:

- Ensure public and certified nonpublic schools complete initial background checks and obtain reference checks of potential employees from previous employers.
- Require applicants to disclose if they have been the subject of actions regarding sexual misconduct in the past year.
- Ensure current child maltreatment prevention training for educators includes information about appropriate communications, sexual misconduct, and grooming.

Kentucky can prioritize child safety in every environment, including schools, by ensuring unsafe adults in caregiving roles are held appropriately accountable.

Blueprint for Kentucky's Children Policy Solution:

Reduce the risk of sexual abuse and exploitation and increase the safety of students by ensuring appropriate disclosures, checks, and training are complete for potential public and private school employees.



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