

Kentucky should...



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

School staff have positions of trust with the children they serve, but violations of that trust irreparably harm student health and learning. When individuals with a history of sexual misconduct are allowed to work in schools, that trust is broken, and students suffer the consequences.

Data Highlights:

- In 2022, there were **754 confirmed cases of child sexual abuse** in Kentucky.
- Over **70% of victims do not disclose** that abuse occurred within five years of the experience.
- Children with intellectual and developmental disabilities are **four times more likely** to be sexually assaulted.



- **61%** of Kentucky teachers who lost their license between 2016 and 2021 lost it **due to sexual misconduct**.

Economic Impact:

Child sexual abuse deeply impacts the survivor and has ripple effects, often across their lifetime. In the U.S., it has an estimated economic impact of **\$9.3 billion**, with survivors earning **21.4% less** for men and **14.9% less** for women than their peers annually.

Compared to adults who had not been sexually abused, survivors are less likely to:

- Graduate from high school
- Obtain a college degree
- Maintain full time employment
- Report financial stability

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.

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

- Ensure public and certified nonpublic schools conduct thorough background checks and obtain reference checks for all potential employees.
- Require applicants to disclose any past investigations or actions related to sexual misconduct within the previous year.
- Implement comprehensive training on sexual misconduct, grooming, and appropriate communication for all educators as part of child maltreatment prevention efforts.