



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.

Child sexual abuse deeply impacts the survivor and has ripple effects, often across their lifetime.

In the U.S., it has an estimated “lifetime economic burden” 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

Critical Insights:

- In 2023, there were **1,266 confirmed cases of child sexual abuse** in Kentucky.
- Over **70% of victims do not disclose** that abuse occurred within 5 years of the experience.
- **61%** of Kentucky teachers who lost their licenses between 2016 and 2021 were **due to sexual misconduct**.

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.

To keep our children safe, 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 prevention efforts.

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.