

Kentucky Coalition for Healthy Children – Policy Priorities



Physical Ed. & Physical Activity

1. No use or withholding of physical activity as punishment.
2. A minimum of 30 minutes for daily physical activity.
3. School wellness subcommittee on SBDM Council.
4. Planning for PE expansion.

Health Services

1. A school nurse for every 750 children.
2. Full implementation of School Based Health Services.
3. Improve access to oral health services.

Nutrition Environment & Services:

1. Increase School Breakfast & Summer Food Service programs.
2. Expand Community Eligibility Provision.

Counseling, Psychological, & Social Services

1. Funding for behavioral health service (BHS) providers.
2. Contracts with community BHS providers.
3. ACEs training for all school staff.
4. Parent/caregiver resilience knowledge.

Health Education

1. Comprehensive tobacco & substance-use prevention education.
2. Increase tobacco cessation and prevention funds.

CORE PRIORITIES

- Ensure sufficient & equitable school funding.
- Fully implement trauma-informed plans in schools.
- Support expansion of school-based health services.
- Guarantee funding for local health data.
- Implement a WSCC Coordinator in every county.
- Implement a School Equity Committee in every county.

Social & Emotional Climate

1. Expand school Social Workers & FRYSCs.
2. Eliminate corporal punishment in schools & incorporate restorative practices.

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PRIORITY	PRIORITY DESCRIPTION
Health Services:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. A school nurse for every 750 children (only 43% of Kentucky schools meet the National Association of School Nurses recommendation). A school nurse in every Kentucky school, all day, every day. 2. Full implementation of School Based Health Services to expand care and bill for services provided to Medicaid-eligible children that fall outside the Individual Education Program (IEP). 3. Improve access to oral health services in the school setting. Require children and youth to have a bi-annual oral check-up. And integrate teeth brushing into preschool and elementary curriculum.
Counseling, Psychological, and Social Services:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. A school counselor for every 250 children (Kentucky's student-to-counselor ratio is 457.8 to 1) and a school psychologist for every 500 children. 2. Increased access to specialty behavioral health services may be made through contracts with community mental health centers and other community based behavioral health providers. 3. In the trauma-informed training schools provide pursuant to the School Safety and Resiliency Act, include education for all school staff on ACEs and resilience, and the impact of systemic racism on toxic stress in children. 4. Promote parent/grandparent/caregiver resilience knowledge.
Social and Emotional Climate:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Ensure adequate funding for School Social Workers and Family Resource and Youth Centers staff and foster collaboration across education, child health, public health, and community-based agencies with community liaisons such as School Social Workers, Community Health Workers and Family Resource and Youth Services Centers Staff. 2. Support legislation that prohibits a person employed by a school district from using corporal physical discipline and encourages restorative practices. (Amend KRS 158.444 to remove corporal punishment as a form of discipline in school; amend KRS 503.110 to remove the exception that permits use of physical force by a teacher against a minor.)
Physical Education and Physical Activity Branch:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Approve policy that schools may not use physical activity as punishment nor withhold opportunities for physical activity as punishment. 2. Amend KRS 160.345(11) from "not to exceed 30 minutes" to "a minimum of 30 minutes". 3. Require a sub-committee of the school council dedicated to implement, assess and report on the wellness policy outcomes to the SBDM Council.
Nutrition Environment and Services Branch:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Increase the number of students participating in the School Breakfast Program & those participating in the USDA Summer Food Service Program. 2. Continue to implement and expand the Community Eligibility Provision of the National School Act that allows schools in high-poverty areas to serve free meals to all students, regardless of family income.
Health Education Branch:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Provide comprehensive tobacco and substance-use prevention education, K-12. 2. Support tobacco cessation efforts among students and school staff who use tobacco – increase tobacco cessation and prevention funds.