



Mission:

To work collaboratively on policies and practices in and around schools that promote equity and improve the physical, social and emotional health and well-being of children, youth and families.

Steering Committee:

- Advocacy Action Network
- Aetna Better Health of Kentucky
- Alliance for a Healthier Generation
- American Academy of Pediatrics- Kentucky Chapter
- American Heart Association
- Anthem Medicaid
- Bounce Coalition
- Cairn Guidance Inc.
- Cumberland Family Medical Center, Inc.
- Dept. Behavioral Health, Dev. & Intellectual Disabilities
- Development and Growth Strategies, LLC
- Foundation for a Healthy Kentucky
- Gay, Lesbian & Straight Education Network - Bluegrass
- Gordon Food service
- Kentucky Association for School Social Work
- Kentucky Association of School Administrators
- Kentucky Council on Problem Gambling
- Kentucky Department for Medicaid Services
- Kentucky Department for Public Health
- Kentucky Department of Education
- Kentucky Health Departments Association
- Kentucky Humana Healthy Horizons
- Kentucky Nurses Association
- Kentucky Primary Care Association
- Kentucky Public Health Association
- Kentucky Voices for Health
- Kentucky Youth Advocates
- KY Parent Teacher Association - 16th District
- Prichard Committee for Academic Excellence
- Seven Counties Services
- Spalding University
- St. Elizabeth
- UnitedHealthcare
- University of Kentucky
- University of Louisville

January 6, 2022

Dear Legislator,

Never have our children experienced more challenging times than these. The coronavirus pandemic has tested our schools and healthcare system in ways we could never have imagined. Schools are a critical space for children to receive multiple supports for their health and wellbeing as we prepare them academically to be a valuable workforce and contributing members to a more fair, just, and inclusive Commonwealth. More than ever, we need children and youth to feel safe, respected, and cared for in our schools, finding in them a space to learn and thrive.

As the 2022 Legislative Session begins, the Kentucky Coalition for Healthy Children would like to offer any support you may require in the significant work that awaits you in helping to shape the future of Kentucky. Ours is a statewide, multiagency collaboration committed to improving the health of our children and youth in their school settings. We seek to advance policies, programs and practices that reach children and youth at school, where they spend a large portion of their lives and at a time when there are critical changes in their brains and bodies.

As the branch charged with the responsibility of assessing the current and future needs of our children, we would like to share the Kentucky Coalition for Healthy Children's *Principles of Equity and Justice in Schools*, which you can download or access online ([link](#)). Given the alarming inequities we currently find exist in schools, the importance of our legislature being a model and guide for schools to be equitable and just can't be overstated. We include some data of the current inequities to exemplify in the link. We know these inequities have only been exacerbated by the pandemic, flash flooding, and catastrophic tornadoes Kentuckians have endured this last year, which have affected the mental and physical health of our children and youth, worsened their economic conditions, and increased their insecurity overall.

Schools continue to be a space to foster resilience in children and youth, starting by being fair, equitable and just. They need your support. The Kentucky Coalition for Healthy Children has outlined its policy priority recommendations, which you can access online ([link](#)).

The Kentucky Coalition for Healthy Children is committed to advocating for evidence-based policies, programs, and practices to achieve the goal of Kentucky becoming a





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leader in improving children’s health, a goal we know you share. We are dedicated to supporting your work towards reaching this goal in any way we can.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ben Chandler".

Ben Chandler
President/ CEO, Foundation for a Healthy Kentucky
Chair, Kentucky Coalition for Healthy Children

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