

Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention Training Guidance January 2026

The document outlines Kentucky's statutory requirements for certified school employees to complete child abuse and neglect prevention training and includes related statutory information in addition to supplemental resources to support schools and districts in effectively implementing training requirements provided in [KRS 156.095](#).

Per [KRS 156.095](#), all certified school district employees and public charter school employees **shall complete at least one hour of child abuse and neglect prevention, recognition, and reporting training from the list of trainings approved by the Kentucky Department of Education (KDE) within twelve (12) months of initial hire and at least once every four (4) years thereafter.**

[KRS 156.095\(7\)](#) requires the KDE to [develop and maintain a list of approved comprehensive evidence-informed trainings](#) on child abuse and neglect prevention, recognition, and reporting that encompass child physical, sexual, and emotional abuse and neglect.

Training Requirements

Each local board of education is required to adopt one or more trainings from the [list approved by the KDE](#) to be implemented by schools. Statute requires that trainings be web-based or in-person and include a questionnaire or other basic assessment tool upon completion to document basic knowledge of training components. At minimum, trainings must cover the following topics:

1. Recognizing child physical, sexual, and emotional abuse and neglect;
2. Reporting suspected child abuse and neglect in Kentucky as required by [KRS 620.030](#) and the appropriate documentation;
3. Responding to the child; and
4. Understanding the response of child protective services.

Related Statutes and Regulations

Below is a list of related statutes. While this is a comprehensive list, it is not an exhaustive list, and you may wish to consult your board attorney if you have any questions.

[KRS 158.038](#) requirements for student identification badges for grades 6-12

"(1) Beginning August 1, 2020, any student identification badge issued to a student in grades six (6) through twelve (12) by a public school shall contain the contact information for:

- (a) A national domestic violence hotline;*
- (b) A national sexual assault hotline; and*
- (c) A national suicide prevention hotline.*

(2) The requirements of subsection (1) of this section shall apply to public charter schools as a health and safety requirement under [KRS 160.1592\(1\)](#).

[KRS 158.041](#) requires schools to display child abuse, human trafficking and safe haven baby box hotline numbers

"Every public school shall prominently display the statewide child abuse hotline number administered by the Cabinet for Health and Family Services, the National Human Trafficking Hotline number administered by the United States Department of Health and Human Services, and the Safe Haven Baby Boxes Crisis Line number administered by the Safe Haven Baby Boxes national organization or any equivalent successor entity. The requirements of this section shall also apply to public charter schools as a health and safety requirement under [KRS 160.1592\(1\)](#)."

[KRS 158.158](#) requirements to display information on sexual extortion for students in grades 6-12

"(1) By August 1, 2025, local boards shall require each public school with instructional spaces for students in grades six (6) through twelve (12) to display, in a prominent location in each school building, a [legible printed sign in English and Spanish](#)

at least eight and one-half (8.5) inches by eleven (11) inches in size that shall contain:

- (a) An age-appropriate description of sexual extortion consistent with the definition in [KRS 531.125](#).
- (b) Contact information for state or local law enforcement for reporting or seeking assistance relating to sexual extortion;
- (c) Contact information for federal law enforcement for reporting or seeking assistance relating to sexual extortion;
- (d) Contact information for a national suicide prevention hotline; and
- (e) The Uniform Resource Locator (URL), a Quick Response (QR) code, or similar resource to identify the website address for informational and support resources regarding sexual extortion provided by the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children or any federally funded successor entity.

(2) The requirements of subsection (1) of this section shall apply to public charter schools as a health and safety requirement under [KRS 160.1592\(1\)](#)."

[KRS 431.600](#) establishes the coordination of child sexual abuse investigations and prosecutions, including the protection of and counseling for child victims

[KRS 529.010](#) provides related definitions under [KRS Chapter 529](#), including:

"Human trafficking" refers to criminal activity whereby one (1) or more persons are subjected to engaging in:

- (a) Forced labor or services; or
- (b) Commercial sexual activity through the use of force, fraud, or coercion, except that if the trafficked person is under the age of eighteen (18), the commercial sexual activity need not involve force, fraud, or coercion," (7).

[KRS 600.020](#) provides related definitions, including:

- **"Abused or neglected child"** means a child whose health or welfare is harmed or threatened with harm when:
 - (a) His or her parent, guardian, person in a position of authority or special trust, as defined in [KRS 532.045](#), or other person exercising custodial control or supervision of the child:
 1. Inflicts or allows to be inflicted upon the child physical or emotional injury as defined in this section by other than accidental means;
 2. Creates or allows to be created a risk of physical or emotional injury as defined in this section to the child by other than accidental means;
 3. Engages in a pattern of conduct that renders the parent incapable of caring for the immediate and ongoing needs of the child, including but not limited to parental incapacity due to a substance use disorder as defined in [KRS 222.005](#);
 4. Continuously or repeatedly fails or refuses to provide essential parental care and protection for the child, considering the age of the child;
 5. Commits or allows to be committed an act of sexual abuse, sexual exploitation, or prostitution upon the child;
 6. Creates or allows to be created a risk that an act of sexual abuse, sexual exploitation, or prostitution will be committed upon the child;
 7. Abandons or exploits the child;
 8. Does not provide the child with adequate care, supervision, food, clothing, shelter, and education or medical care necessary for the child's well-being when financially able to do so or offered financial or other means to do so. A parent or other person exercising custodial control or supervision of the child legitimately practicing the person's religious beliefs shall not be considered a negligent parent solely because of failure to provide specified medical treatment for a child for that reason alone. This exception shall not preclude a court from ordering necessary medical services for a child;
 9. Fails to make sufficient progress toward identified goals as set forth in the court-approved case plan to allow for the safe return of the child to the parent that results in the child remaining committed to the cabinet and remaining in foster care for fifteen (15) cumulative months out of forty-eight (48) months; or
 10. Commits or allows female genital mutilation as defined in [KRS 508.125](#) to be committed; or
 - (b) A person twenty-one (21) years of age or older commits or allows to be committed an act of sexual abuse, sexual exploitation, or prostitution upon a child less than sixteen (16) years of age," (1).
- **"Emotional injury"** means an injury to the mental or psychological capacity or emotional stability of a child as evidenced by a substantial and observable impairment in the child's ability to function within a normal range of performance and behavior with due regard to his or her age, development, culture, and environment as testified to by a qualified mental health professional," (26).
- **"Physical injury"** means substantial physical pain or any impairment of physical condition," (49).
- **"Sexual abuse"** includes but is not necessarily limited to any contacts or interactions in which the parent, guardian,

person in a position of authority or special trust, as defined in [KRS 532.045](#), or other person having custodial control or supervision of the child or responsibility for his or her welfare, uses or allows, permits, or encourages the use of the child for the purposes of the sexual stimulation of the perpetrator or another person," (62).

- **"Sexual exploitation"** includes but is not limited to a situation in which a parent, guardian, person in a position of authority or special trust, as defined in [KRS 532.045](#), or other person having custodial control or supervision of a child or responsible for his or her welfare, allows, permits, or encourages the child to engage in an act which constitutes prostitution under Kentucky law; or a parent, guardian, person in a position of authority or special trust, as defined in [KRS 532.045](#), or other person having custodial control or supervision of a child or responsible for his or her welfare, allows, permits, or encourages the child to engage in an act of obscene or pornographic photographing, filming, or depicting of a child as provided for under Kentucky law," (63).

[KRS 620.030](#) establishes the duty to report dependency, neglect and abuse and penalties for intentional violation

"(2)(a) Any person, including but not limited to a... teacher, school personnel, social worker..., health professional, mental health professional..., peace officer, or any organization or agency for any of the above, who knows or has reasonable cause to believe that a child is dependent, neglected, or abused, regardless of whether the person believed to have caused the dependency, neglect, or abuse is a parent, guardian, fictive kin, person in a position of authority, person in a position of special trust, person exercising custodial control or supervision, or another person, or who has attended such child as a part of his or her professional duties, shall:

- 1. Immediately make an oral or written report, including but not limited to electronic submissions, in accordance with subsection (1) of this section;*
- 2. Immediately notify the supervisor of the institution, school, facility, agency, or designated agent of the person in charge; and*
- 3. If requested, in addition to the report required in subsection (1) or (3) of this section, file with the local law enforcement agency or the Department of Kentucky State Police, the cabinet or its designated representative, the Commonwealth's attorney, or county attorney within forty-eight (48) hours of the original report a written report, including but not limited to electronic submissions, containing:*
 - a. The names and addresses of the child and his or her parents or other persons exercising custodial control or supervision;*
 - b. The child's age;*
 - c. The nature and extent of the child's alleged dependency, neglect, or abuse, including any previous charges of dependency, neglect, or abuse, to this child or his or her siblings;*
 - d. The name and address of the person allegedly responsible for the abuse or neglect; and*
 - e. Any other information that the person making the report believes may be helpful in the furtherance of the purpose of this section.*

(b) Upon notification, the supervisor or the designated agent, if any, shall facilitate the cooperation of the institution, school, facility, or agency with the investigation of the report.

(c) Any person who knowingly causes intimidation, retaliation, or obstruction in the investigation of the report shall be guilty of a Class A misdemeanor.

(d) This section shall not require more than one (1) report from any institution, school, facility, or agency.

(3) Any person who knows or has reasonable cause to believe that a child is a victim of human trafficking as defined in [KRS 529.010](#) shall immediately cause an oral or written report, including but not limited to electronic submissions, to be made to a local law enforcement agency or the Department of Kentucky State Police; or the cabinet or its designated representative; or the Commonwealth's attorney or the county attorney; by telephone or otherwise. This subsection shall apply regardless of whether the person believed to have caused the human trafficking of the child is a parent, guardian, fictive kin, person in a position of authority, person in a position of special trust, or person exercising custodial control or supervision."

(4) Any person who knows or has reasonable cause to believe that a child is a victim of female genital mutilation as defined in [KRS 508.125](#) shall immediately cause an oral or written report, including but not limited to electronic submissions, to be made by telephone or otherwise to:

- (a) A local law enforcement agency or the Department of Kentucky State Police;*
- (b) The cabinet or its designated representative; or*
- (c) The Commonwealth's attorney or the county attorney.*

This subsection shall apply regardless of whether the person believed to have caused the female genital mutilation of the

child is a parent, guardian, or person exercising custodial control or supervision."

"(9) Any person who intentionally violates the provisions of this section shall be guilty of a:

- (a) Class B misdemeanor for the first offense;
- (b) Class A misdemeanor for the second offense; and
- (c) Class D felony for each subsequent offense."

[KRS 620.040](#) establishes related duties and procedures for reporting

"(1)(a) Upon receipt of a report alleging abuse or neglect of a child as defined in [KRS 600.020](#) by a parent, guardian, fictive kin, person in a position of authority, person in a position of special trust, or person exercising custodial control or supervision, pursuant to [KRS 620.030\(1\) or \(2\)](#), or a report alleging a child is a victim of human trafficking pursuant to [KRS 620.030\(3\)](#), the recipient of the report shall immediately notify the cabinet or its designated representative, the local law enforcement agency or the Department of Kentucky State Police, and the Commonwealth's or county attorney of the receipt of the report. If any agency listed above is the reporting source, the recipient shall immediately notify the cabinet or its designated representative, the local law enforcement agency, the Department of Kentucky State Police, and the Commonwealth's or county attorney of the receipt of the report."

"(4) School personnel or other persons listed in [KRS 620.030\(2\)](#) do not have the authority to conduct internal investigations in lieu of the official investigations outlined in this section."

[KRS 620.050](#) establishes immunity for good-faith actions or reports

"Anyone acting upon reasonable cause in the making of a report or acting under [KRS 620.030](#) to [620.050](#) in good faith shall have immunity from any liability, civil or criminal, that might otherwise be incurred or imposed," (1).

[KRS 620.072\(4\)](#) establishes access to child without parental consent

"A school or a child-care provider shall provide the cabinet access to a child subject to an investigation or assessment without parental consent," (4).

[922 KAR 1:330](#) establishes procedures for a child protection investigation or assessment of abuse, neglect or dependency.

Supplemental Resources and Contacts

- [Kentucky Cabinet for Health and Family Services](#): (833) 372-0004; [Child Protection Branch](#)
- [Kentucky Child Protective Services Online Reporting System](#) (non-emergency)
- [Commonwealth's and County Attorney](#) (search by county)
- [Department for Community-Based Services \(DCBS\)](#) and [directory of service regions](#)
- [Kentucky State Police](#)
- [KDE Child Abuse and Neglect: Prevention, Recognition and Reporting Webpage](#)
- [KDE Human Trafficking Webpage and posters](#)
- [KDE Sexual Extortion Webpage and posters](#)

Hotlines

- Statewide Child Abuse Hotline: 1-877-597-2331 (1-877-KYSAFE1)
- [National Domestic Violence Hotline](#): 1-888-799-SAFE (1-888-799-7233)
- [National Human Trafficking Reporting Hotline](#): 1-888-373-7888
- [National Safe Haven Baby Box Hotline](#): 1-866-99BABY1 (1-866-992-2291)
- [National Sexual Assault Hotline](#): 1-800-656-HOPE (1-800-656-4673)
- [National Mental Health Crises and Suicide Prevention Hotline](#): 1-800-273-TALK (1-800-273-8255); or dial/text 988 (Suicide and Crisis Lifeline)

For questions, contact

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