

# Face It Movement 2026 State Policy Priority Agenda

**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.



## State Policy Priority

**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.**

**Kentucky should ensure that young children with disabilities have access to high quality child care.**

Young children are 3.5 times more likely to be expelled from child care than from the K-12 education system. One of the driving reasons behind these expulsions is challenging behaviors associated with disability, mental health needs, or chronic health care conditions.



## State Policy Priority

**Require annual training for child care providers on strategies to support children with disabilities and allow the Kentucky Early Intervention Services (KEIS) and local public school district access to child care programs for the purpose of diagnosis and therapy services with parent permission.**

**Kentucky should ensure kids are protected from grooming behaviors.**

Not all red flags for abuse are easily recognized or even illegal. Grooming is a pattern of manipulative behaviors used to gain a child's trust, sexually exploit them, and avoid detection.



## State Policy Priority

**Hold adults accountable for grooming behaviors directed at anyone under the age of 14 and hold adults in positions of special trust or authority accountable for grooming behaviors directed at a child of any age.**

# Face It Movement 2026 State Budget Priority Agenda

**Kentucky should prioritize parent engagement to prevent educational neglect and system-involvement.**

Recent data indicates a rise in reports of educational neglect, an issue that represents a small percentage of cases substantiated by the Department for Community Based Services (DCBS) and could be attributed to other challenges a family is experiencing, such as food or housing insecurity, medical issues, or unreliable transportation.



## State Budget Priority

**Expand investments in Parent Engagement Meetings to connect families at risk of educational neglect with services and prevent unnecessary referrals to DCBS or the courts.**

**Kentucky should invest in services that promote ongoing family connection during child welfare involvement.**

For children separated from their parents because of abuse, neglect, or other safety concerns, time spent together during that separation is an opportunity to nurture relationships, develop new skills, and lay the groundwork for healing and reunification.



## State Budget Priority

**Invest in supervised parenting time programs to ensure families have access to services that maintain critical connections between children and their parents or siblings during child welfare involvement.**