



FOR YOUTH DEVELOPMENT®  
FOR HEALTHY LIVING  
FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

# KENTUCKY YOUTH ASSEMBLY YOUTH GOVERNORS REPORT

Since 1946, the Kentucky YMCA has proudly sponsored the Kentucky Youth Assembly, or KYA – the nation’s largest Youth and Government program for middle and high school students.

As delegates to KYA, students can serve as Representatives and Senators, Justices and Attorneys, Cabinet Secretaries, Lobbyists, and members of our Media Corps. During the fall, delegates work with their school delegations to research and write legislation that they will sponsor at the Assembly.

The 2016 Session of KYA was also our largest program yet. Over the course of 7 assemblies – 3 High School and 4 Middle School – the Y served more students, families, schools, and communities than ever before:

**7,175** STUDENT DELEGATES  
**3,582** HIGH SCHOOLERS  
**3,593** MIDDLE SCHOOLERS

REPRESENTING **125** HIGH SCHOOLS  
**258** **133** MIDDLE SCHOOLS  
SCHOOLS **815** VOLUNTEER ADVISORS & CHAPERONES

AUTHORED AND SPONSORED **54** SIGNED INTO LAW BY KYA GOVERNORS  
**613** **BILLS**

Of the 613 bills that were written, sponsored and debated by our student delegates during KYA 2016, our High School Youth Governors signed 54 of them into law.

The **Youth Governors Report** lists each of these 54 bills by both title and school, and organizes them into policy areas for presentation and consideration by their respective House and Senate Committees.

## 2016 YOUTH GOVERNORS

**Spencer Stewart | HS KYA 1**  
Lexington • Sayre School

**Evan Hays | HS KYA 2**  
Lexington • Henry Clay HS

**Barton Christmas | HS KYA 3**  
Paducah • McCracken Co. HS

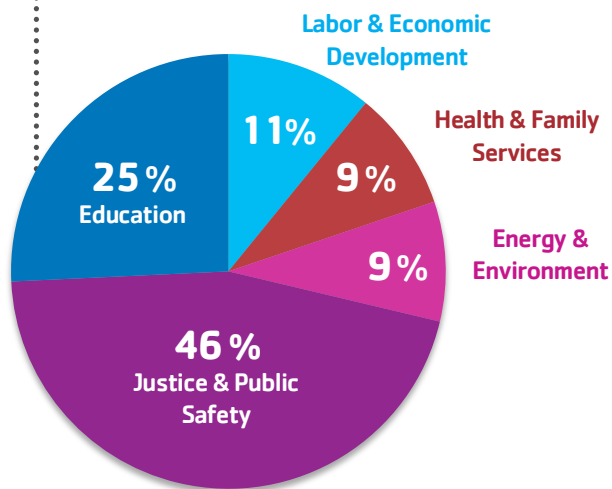
Each Youth Governor is elected by his/her peers to serve for a full yearlong term with their fellow KYA Presiding Officers.

At each KYA, Governors meet with sponsors of bills passed by the House and Senate, and consult with the Cabinet and Budget Committee before deciding to sign or veto each bill.

## POLICY TRENDS

Out of the 54 bills signed into law, multiple bills addressed each of the following policies:

- Animal Abuse
- Conversion Therapy
- Child Abuse Laws
- EpiPens in Schools
- Firearm Regulations
- Marijuana Legalization
- Physician Assisted Suicide
- Prostitution Legalization
- Right-to-Work Laws
- School Safety Plans
- Sex Education Reform



# SIGNED BILLS LISTED BY POLICY AREA

## **EDUCATION** | Full text of bills available at [www.kyymca.org/kyareport](http://www.kyymca.org/kyareport)

- To mandate an Active Shooter Situation Training for all faculty/staff in all public schools.
- To end requiring students with Functional Mental Disabilities to drop out of high school
- To allow EpiPens on person on school grounds.
- To require Kentucky public schools to stock life-saving epi-pens without a prescription
- To improve the mental health of students in Kentucky
- To mandate that school districts provide one ESL Instructor for every 40 ESL Students
- To ensure educational accountability of homeschool students enrolling in public schools.
- To equalize all public school grading scales
- To restructure teacher retirement plans and convert lottery proceeds to fund teacher pensions
- To require self defense to be taught in the PE curriculum.
- To expand the existing summer food service program in public schools.
- To extend the public school health curriculum to include sexual abuse education.
- To revise sex education policies in Middle and High Schools in the state of Kentucky.
- To include Student Voice in decisions made by SBDMs and school councils

## **ENERGY & ENVIRONMENT** | Full text of bills available at [www.kyymca.org/kyareport](http://www.kyymca.org/kyareport)

- To require county and municipal water utilities to replace chloramine with chlorine
- To allow State Parks to charge an entry fee to any and all persons/vehicles entering the park.
- To stimulate Kentucky's economy through a renewable portfolio.
- To create state incentives for the purchase of plug-in hybrid and electric vehicles
- To establish labeling of all pesticides and herbicides used during cultivation of any food product.

## **HEALTH & FAMILY SERVICES** | Full text of bills available at [www.kyymca.org/kyareport](http://www.kyymca.org/kyareport)

- To expand terminally ill patients' access to experimental drugs, biological products, and devices
- To ban practicing conversion therapy on minors.
- To require patients receiving mammograms to be informed if they have dense breast tissue.
- To strengthen and change the FMLA (Family and Medical Leave Act)
- To prohibit conversion therapy on all minors.

## **JUSTICE & PUBLIC SAFETY** | Full text of bills available at [www.kyymca.org/kyareport](http://www.kyymca.org/kyareport)

- To abolish the Statute of Limitations (SOL) on Sex Crimes in Kentucky
- To allow a vote on an initiative authorizing the use of marijuana for medical purposes.
- To implement a computerized Kentucky Animal Abuse Registry
- To create appropriate charges for teen sexting.
- To legalize the production of medical cannabis to be prescribed by physicians to patients
- To institute a "Breaking Chains" program
- To legalize prostitution in government-regulated brothels
- To prohibit discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation or gender identity.
- To legalize the practice of physician assisted suicide for adults with terminal illnesses
- To alter and increase regulations on the purchase, sale, and usage of firearms
- To legalize prostitution in Kentucky
- To lower the minimum age to obtain a permit license
- To require public on-line polls on state legislation.
- To reduce the rate of serial sexual offenders in Kentucky.
- To fix the flaws of the Cannabidiol (CBD) Oil Legislation
- To require parents/guardians to report missing children within 24 hours of disappearance.
- To legalize Physician Assisted Suicide
- To legalize the medicinal and limited recreational use of marijuana.
- To require the option of organ donation to inmates sentenced with capital punishment
- To establish a child abuse registry
- To eliminate Kentucky narcotics possession charges in favor of rehabilitation
- To recognize substance abuse during pregnancy as child abuse
- To increase punishment on Animal Abuse charges.
- To implement same day voter registration.
- To require psychological background checks for all purchasers of firearms in Kentucky.

## **LABOR & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT** | Full text of bills available at [www.kyymca.org/kyareport](http://www.kyymca.org/kyareport)

- To combat rising unemployment through expanded job training in growing job sectors.
- To provide a tax credit related to the development and posting of an open source or free license
- To implement right-to-work laws in the Commonwealth of Kentucky
- To eliminate forced labor unionization of Kentucky workers by their employers
- To improve Kentucky's infrastructure through increased and refocused funding
- To cut corporate taxes to reduce unemployment.

## **SPONSORING SCHOOL**

Barbourville HS  
Breckinridge Co. HS  
Butler Traditional HS  
Corbin HS  
Daviess Co. HS  
Elizabethtown HS  
Hart Co. HS  
Hazard High School  
Henderson Co. HS  
Montgomery Co. HS  
Oldham Co. HS  
Owensboro HS  
P.L. Dunbar HS  
Sacred Heart Aca.

## **SPONSORING SCHOOL**

Henderson Co. HS  
Lexington Christian Aca.  
Oldham Co. HS  
Taylor Co. HS  
Western Hills HS

## **SPONSORING SCHOOL**

duPont Manual HS  
East Carter HS  
Elizabethtown HS  
Presentation Aca.  
Warren East HS

## **SPONSORING SCHOOL**

Assumption HS  
Barren Co. HS  
Bluegrass HLC  
Boyd Co. HS  
Campbellsville HS  
Central HS - Louisville  
duPont Manual HS  
Frankfort HS  
Glasgow HS  
Henry Clay HS  
Henry Clay HS  
Henry Clay HS  
Lexington Christian Aca.  
Louisville Holy Cross HS  
Marshall Co. HS  
McCracken Co. HS  
North Oldham HS  
Pleasure Ridge Park HS  
Sacred Heart Aca.  
Scott Co. HS  
St. Xavier HS  
Taylor Co. HS  
Thomas Nelson HS  
Warren Central HS  
Williamstown HS

## **SPONSORING SCHOOL**

Belfry HS  
Bryan Station HS  
Daviess Co. HS  
Gatton Aca.  
Henry Clay HS  
P.L. Dunbar HS