



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 2017 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.

**7,439** STUDENT DELEGATES  
**3,777** HIGH SCHOOLERS  
**3,662** MIDDLE SCHOOLERS

REPRESENTING **127** HIGH SCHOOLS  
**223** SCHOOLS **96** MIDDLE SCHOOLS  
**816** VOLUNTEER ADVISORS & CHAPERONES

**600+** AUTHORED AND SPONSORED BILLS

Of the legislation that was written, sponsored and debated by our student delegates during KYA 2017, our High School Youth Governors signed 40 of them into law.

The **Youth Governors Report** lists each of these 40 bills by both title and school, and organizes them into policy areas for presentation and consideration by their respective House and Senate Committees.

See back of page to view all bills passed by our 2017 Governors.

## 2017 YOUTH GOVERNORS

**Bella Beilman | HS KYA 1**  
Louisville • Assumption HS

**Ryan Clifford | HS KYA 2**  
Louisville • St Xavier HS

**Demetrius Dillard | HS KYA 3**  
Louisville • Louisville Holy Cross

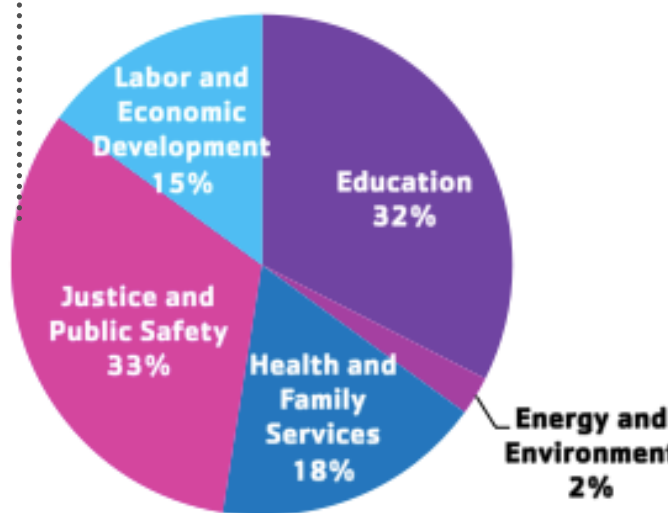
Each Youth Governor is elected by his/her peers to serve for a full yearlong term with their fellow KYA Presiding Officers.

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

- Animal Abuse
- Voter Registration
- Child Abuse Laws
- Public Education
- Gambling
- Voter Education
- Justice System
- Public Safety
- Marijuana Legalization



# SIGNED BILLS LISTED BY POLICY AREA

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

- To incorporate the phrases "Sexual Orientation" and "Gender Identity" in KRS
- To require all Kentucky school employees to be CPR certified
- To mandate financial literacy seminars for students in the 8th and 12th grades
- To allow absentee voting and same-day voter registration
- To repeal policies that prohibit the freedom of speech for citizens at public colleges
- To update the curriculum of Kentucky Public Schools
- To implement college readiness seminars for high school juniors and seniors
- To reform teacher tenure in the State of Kentucky
- To implement automatic voter registration in Kentucky
- To allow self-defense classes to be accepted as an alternative for High School PE requirements
- To alter the Kentucky High School Athletic Association violation punishment guidelines
- To increase accessibility of voting
- To secure the educational stability of children in an out-of-home placement

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

- To require Lead testing and disclosures in Kentucky

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

- To incentivize Mental Health Care Professionals to establish practices in shortage areas
- To reclassify Marijuana from a Schedule I to a Schedule II drug
- To legalize Physician-Assisted Suicide
- To repeal medical review panels in Kentucky
- To restrict the entry of non-vaccinated children on the account of religious doctrine into public schools
- To the legalize medicinal cannabis
- To abolish the "Pink Tax"

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

- To abolish the use of solitary confinement on individuals under the age of 18
- To restore felon suffrage
- To require juvenile sex offenders 16 years or older to be tried as adults in court
- To alter statues related to rape in the Commonwealth of Kentucky
- To prevent animal cruelty at dog breeding facilities
- To add juries to child custody court
- To prohibit marriage for individuals under the age of 17
- To allow license renewal for citizens 70 and older
- To establish open primaries in all Kentucky elections
- To require government funding for kin or relatives taking in minors due to unfit household situations
- To prevent the cruel punishment of dogs through the use of puppy mills
- To remove all statues honoring Confederate soldiers from the Kentucky Capitol Building
- To criminalize bestiality in Kentucky

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

- To lower the required age to handle and serve alcohol at on premise establishments
- To establish a nonpartisan commission to redraw district lines
- To establish a tax free weekend in the fall throughout the Commonwealth of Kentucky
- To implement a program for Appalachian farmers to grow industrial hemp
- To legalize casinos in Kentucky
- To legalize casino gambling in the Commonwealth of Kentucky

## **SPONSORING SCHOOL**

Owensboro HS  
Rockcastle Co. HS  
Sayre School HS  
Walden School HS  
South Oldham HS  
St. Francis-Louisville  
Lafayette HS  
Martha Layne Collins HS  
McCraken Co. HS  
North Laurel HS  
North Oldham HS  
North Oldham HS  
Western Hills HS

## **SPONSORING SCHOOL**

DuPont Manual HS

## **SPONSORING SCHOOL**

Gatton Academy-WKU  
John Hardin HS  
Henry Clay HS  
Louisville Collegiate  
North Oldham HS  
Owen Co. HS  
South Laurel HS

## **SPONSORING SCHOOL**

Assumption HS  
DuPont Manual HS  
Elizabethtown HS  
Gatton Academy- WKU  
Lexington Christian HS  
Oldham Co. HS  
Christian Academy of Lou.  
Glasgow HS  
Montgomery Co HS  
Bryan Station HS  
George Rogers Clark HS  
Holy Cross Covington  
McCraken Co HS

## **SPONSORING SCHOOL**

Boyle Co HS  
Corbin HS  
Greenwood HS  
Sacred Heart Academy  
South Oldham HS  
Bethlehem HS