



The Independent Voice for Kentucky's Children

KENTUCKY  
YOUTH  
ADVOCATES

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**Contact:**

Patricia Tennen

502-895-8167 x 120

wneal@kyyouth.org

## **Senate Education Committee Votes to Raise Graduation Age**

### **Statement by Terry Brooks, Executive Director of Kentucky Youth Advocates**

With the passage of HB 301 this morning the Senate Education Committee moved the General Assembly one step closer to a key policy that supports Kentucky's kids today and will bolster our economy for the future. Raising the legal dropout age from 16 to 18 will align Kentucky's law with the 21<sup>st</sup> century reality where a high school diploma is required for most mainstream jobs.

The bill that passed out of committee today ensures that schools, families, and students will have an appropriate amount of time to transition to higher expectations. It was encouraging to see the important support of career and technical education included in the bill. There is no question that supports such as career and technical pathways, provisions for early graduation and fundamental reform of alternative education programs are cornerstones for keeping students engaged in their high school experience.

We are convinced that Kentucky's young people can and will meet this new level of expectation when given relevant support by schools and communities.

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*Kentucky Youth Advocates is a non-partisan, non-profit, children's advocacy organization. KYA represents a voice for Kentucky's most precious asset – its youth. We believe that Kentucky's youth deserve the opportunities and resources necessary to ensure their productive development and health.*