

FAMILY RESOURCE YOUTH SERVICES CENTERS (FRYSC)

Family Resource Youth Services Centers has been significantly impacting the lives of students and families in Kentucky for over 30 years. Following a declaration by the Kentucky Supreme Court that Kentucky's education system was inefficient and inequitable, the Kentucky Education Reform Act (KERA) was formed in 1990.

In response to growing concerns and desire to remove barriers to educational success, the Kentucky General Assembly created the Family Resource Youth Services Centers (FRYSC's) as an integral part of the reform system. The need for education and human service systems to engage in the joint provision of services and support to children, youth and families had rapidly increased. The growing number and complexity of problems faced by our society (e.g. poverty, family restructuring, teenage pregnancy, substance abuse and domestic and youth violence) have caused increasing levels of stress on families and children-stress that children bring to the classroom, which creates barriers to learning.

These problems have also places a greater demand on public service agencies and demonstrate a need for community and schools to work together to restore family and child well-being. KERA provided an unprecedented state-level partnership between Kentucky's Department of Education and the Cabinet for Health and Family Services. These partnerships share the responsibility of implementing and sustaining centers across the state.

The Cabinet for Health and Family Services and Division of FRYSC, has the responsibility for administration of this program, where the Kentucky Department of Education continues to provide technical support for the public education mandate. Now more than 2 decades since inception, the Kentucky Family Resource and Youth Services Centers are recognized as the nation's largest school-based family support initiative.

These centers are designed to address the needs of children by developing partnerships with school, family and community to help all public school students reach proficiency. Recent surveys report that educators, parents and community partners feel that the Family Resource and Youth Services Centers are a "necessary component of Kentucky educational programming and "a program vital to students, empowering families, and helping to improve schools."

In 1991 just over 100 Family Resource and Youth Services Centers were opened in Kentucky. In 2021 centers now have grown to 857 serving 1200 schools.

This year, Family Resource Youth Services Centers across the state are being recognized the week of February 8-12. Legislators are working on legislation to make the 2nd Wednesday of every February the annual ***FRYSC Day in Kentucky***. It will be February 10th, this year. To celebrate, we are asking that you display a picture of the attached ***“We Love Our FRYSC”*** logo that week in the window of your business, organization, church, home, etc. and also post pictures to Facebook using the hashtag **#FRYSCStrong** to recognize the dedication that these centers provide for our students and families every day.