

# Kentucky

## 40 Percent of Students at Risk of Chemical Catastrophes

In Kentucky, 294,892 students attend school within the vulnerability zone of a high-risk chemical facility. That means that 2 in 5 students from preschool to high school face chemical leaks, gas clouds, or explosions.

The April 2013 fertilizer plant explosion in West, Texas demonstrated the unseen dangers of chemical facilities. That explosion killed 15 people, injured hundreds of others, and destroyed three schools. If the explosion had occurred during the day, many schoolchildren might have been harmed as well.



But many students and schools could be better protected from danger. Safer chemicals and technologies exist that would reduce or eliminate these vulnerability zones and leave significantly fewer children at risk, and some facilities have already made the switch. However, since these changes are not required, many other facilities continue to use dangerous chemicals and leave schools, children, and neighbors at risk. The Obama administration could require facilities to switch to safer technologies and reduce the risk to Kentucky's students.

Kentucky's kids should not have to go to school each day with the looming threat of a chemical disaster when safer technologies exist.

### Top Five Counties Where Students Are Most at Risk

County	Number of Students in Vulnerability Zones	Number of Schools in Vulnerability Zones
McCracken	10,927 (100%)	21
Boyd	8,039 (100%)	25
Henderson	7,836 (100%)	14
Greenup	6,323 (100%)	14
Marshall	4,884 (100%)	12

Every state has locations where chemical facilities place more students at risk. The first table lists the counties in Kentucky that have the highest percentage of students attending schools in vulnerability zones. Students in McCracken County are more likely to attend school in a vulnerability zone than anywhere else in the state as its facilities put 10,927 students at risk – 100% of all school-aged children in the county.

### Top Five Schools at Risk of a Chemical Disaster

School Name	City	Number of Vulnerability Zones	Number of Students
Louisville Collegiate School	Louisville	5	611
Calvert City Elementary School	Calvert City	5	348
Kentucky School For The Blind	Louisville	5	61
Highland Middle School	Louisville	4	1,193
Meyzeek Middle School	Louisville	4	1,118

View other state factsheets at: [www.foreffectivegov.org/kids-in-danger-zones-state-factsheets](http://www.foreffectivegov.org/kids-in-danger-zones-state-factsheets)

The known vulnerability zones in Kentucky put a total of 659 schools at risk, some of which are in more than one vulnerability zone. The second table lists the Kentucky schools that are currently located in the most known vulnerability zones in the state. Overlapping vulnerability zones, which increase the risk to the schools and communities covered, often occur around larger cities and heavily industrialized areas. In Kentucky, the schools bearing the greatest risk from such overlapping vulnerability zones include Louisville Collegiate School in Louisville, Calvert City Elementary School in Calvert City, and Kentucky School For The Blind in Louisville.

### Top Five Facilities Putting the Most Students at Risk

Facility Name	City	Number of Students in Facility's Vulnerability Zone	Number of Schools in Facility's Vulnerability Zone
Dupont Louisville Works	Louisville	119,188	246
Lubrizol Advanced Materials, Inc.	Louisville	109,183	229
Catlettsburg Refining, LLC	Catlettsburg	43,550	116
Brenntag Mid-South, Inc.	Henderson	42,306	88
DuPont Wurtland Plant	Wurtland	35,884	94

The facilities listed in the third table place the most students in Kentucky at risk of a chemical disaster. Dupont Louisville Works in Louisville, which stores 5,315,000 pounds of hydrofluoric acid (conc >50%), has 119,188 students studying in its vulnerability zone, thereby putting more students at risk than any other facility in Kentucky. Lubrizol Advanced Materials, Inc. in Louisville is in second place, with 109,183 students in its vulnerability zone. Any efforts in Kentucky to better protect schools from chemical risks should include changes to reduce the vulnerability zones of these top facilities.



### What Can You Do?

First, [take action](http://bit.ly/kids-in-danger-zones-action) (<http://bit.ly/kids-in-danger-zones-action>) and urge the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to protect our children by requiring facilities to adopt safer chemical alternatives. Act now and urge others to stand up for children in Kentucky.

Second, use our [interactive map](http://tesla.foreffectivegov.org/KidsAndToxins/bin-release) (<http://tesla.foreffectivegov.org/KidsAndToxins/bin-release>) to learn more about the dangerous facilities in your area and the schools they place in harm's way.

Third, contact facilities in your area and your local officials. Demand that they establish a plan to shift to safer technologies or store smaller quantities of hazardous chemicals to reduce the vulnerability zones that place children, schools, and communities at risk.

