



KENTUCKY AUTISM
TRAINING CENTER

UL COLLEGE OF EDUCATION
& HUMAN DEVELOPMENT

Kentucky's Statewide Resource for Autism Support

Supporting Families, Schools & Communities

June 17, 2026

Interim Joint Committee Families and Children

Presented by:

Dr. Larry Taylor, Executive Director

Heidi Cooley-Cook, Deputy Director

Established in 1996 by the Kentucky General Assembly

Who We Are & Statewide Need

Kentucky Autism Training Center (KATC)

- Created by the General Assembly in 1996
 - based at University of Louisville
- Provides training, consultation & resources for schools, families & community partners

Growing Need

- Autistic students are part of classrooms across Kentucky
- Families & educators need practical tools & supports
- Effective support improves outcomes

Supporting Kentucky Systems

Working Alongside KDE

- Helps schools better support students with autism
- Provides practical training & tools for educators

Extending Support Beyond Schools

- Families & caregivers
- Community organizations & agencies
- First Responders (law enforcement, fire services, EMS, search & rescue)

What We Provide

Statewide Support Includes:

- Training for educators & school teams
- Resources & guidance for families
- Consultation for schools & community partners
- Tools & strategies for communication, safety & daily living
- Practical training & tools for first responders
- Targeted collaboration with state & community partners/agencies

Statewide Impact

2024-2025

116 of 120 counties served

2025-2026

120 of 120 counties served

*Ensuring access to **training & resources** for
autism across all **120 Kentucky counties***



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Supporting Schools, Families & Communities Across Kentucky

Learn more & access resources:
uofl.me/katc

