

## LATEST NEWS

<b>SPORTS</b> Traditional Bank Athlete of the Week: Franklin County's Jackson wins state title in first year running hurdles	<b>OPINION</b> CARTOON: MLK Frankfort march	<b>EDUCATION</b> Franklin County's Emberton, Western Hills' Mehaffy named National Merit finalists	<b>CRIME</b> Franklin Circuit Court indictments (March 5)	<b>EDUCATION</b> Thompson honored with Betty and David Jones Sr. Legacy Award	<b>NEWS</b> 'A tribute to brave souls': Hundreds reenact March on Frankfort
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## Editorial: Expansion of Yes Card program is welcome news for local tweens

State Journal Editorial Board Aug 11, 2023 Updated Aug 11, 2023

Middle schoolers in both Frankfort Independent and Franklin County school districts now have access to free or low-cost community programs — such as dance, sports, art and music — thanks to a recent expansion of the Yes Card, which is offered by the Franklin County Health Department's Just Say Yes program.

The card has been available for FIS middle school students as a part of the pilot program funded by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention for the past three years.

Adding Elkhorn Middle and Bondurant Middle students to the mix increases the number of local students being served to more than 1,700. In addition to the CDC, the Kentucky Injury Prevention and Research Center, the Kentucky Association of Health Plans, Kentucky Department of Public Health and the National Association of County and City Health Officials provide continual funding for the initiative.

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Data gathered from the annual Franklin County Youth Survey — an anonymous questionnaire answered by 85% of the area's seventh through 10<sup>th</sup> graders — had promising and surprising results.

For example, 91% of respondents had never been drunk, but 20% said they had tried alcohol by 13 years old. And while 94% said their parents know where they are in evenings, 18% admitted to staying out past midnight the week before.

Notably, the survey results indicate that those who stayed out late were six times more likely to get drunk on a regular basis and four times more likely to vape.

In a press release, Just Say Yes Director Amelia Berry stressed the importance of engaging kids "in positive activities that support their physical and mental health, foster healthy connections with peers and adult mentors and reduce idle, unsupervised time during out-of-school hours when kids are most likely to start using alcohol, tobacco and drugs."

We agree and are encouraged to see that the number of local middle schoolers eligible to participate in the Yes Card program is multiplying. It is our hope that parents, guardians and caregivers will register their students to partake in the program when information is sent out in the coming weeks.

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<b>CRIME</b> <b>FPD: Woman fled after officers found open alcoholic beverages in her vehicle</b>	<b>OPINION</b> <b>Guest columnist: Shifting our focus to empower youth</b>	<b>SPORTS</b> <b>Frankfort's Norman wins 400-meter dash at indoor state meet, Lady Panthers place fourth as team</b>	<b>SPORTS</b> <b>Franklin County's balanced attack leads Lady Flyers to first-round win in 11th Region tournament</b>

## Around The Web

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## ONLINE POLL

Last week Sen. Mitch McConnell announced he will step down as the Senate Republican leader in November. Do you agree with his decision?

Yes  
 No  
 Don't know

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