



Policy Principles for Comprehensive AI Child Safety Legislation in 2026

The Parents & Kids Safe AI Coalition is a growing alliance of parents, educators, kids' safety advocates, social justice and business leaders, technology companies, and community groups urging the California Legislature to pass comprehensive AI child-safety legislation in 2026. We support clear, enforceable standards that protect children, empower parents, and keep pace with evolving AI technology.

Any comprehensive AI child-safety legislation should include these core protections:



Age Assurance

- Require AI companies to use age estimation technology to distinguish children from adults. When age cannot be determined, default to protective safeguards.



Parental Controls

- Require simple, easy-to-use parental controls to manage time, privacy, and features—including an option to notify parents if a system detects a material risk of severe harm.



Protect Kids from Inappropriate Content

- Require safeguards to keep systems from creating emotional dependence, such as by simulating romantic relationships.
- Require AI companies to design their systems to protect children from content that is sexually explicit, violent or that promotes self-harm, with periodic reminders that users are interacting with AI, not a human.



Protect Kids' Personal Information and Data

- Prohibit AI companies from targeting advertising to children or selling children's personal data without parental consent.



Annual Risk Assessments to Ensure Protections Evolve as Technology Evolves

- AI companies to conduct comprehensive, yearly reviews to identify and address new and existing child safety risks—ensuring protections evolve alongside technology.



Independent Third-Party Audits for Transparency & Oversight

- Require AI companies to submit to annual independent audits, with results submitted to the Attorney General and publicly reported—so companies stay compliant and Californians stay informed.



Strong Enforcement

- Give the California Attorney General clear authority to investigate violations, pursue claims, and impose penalties to ensure uniform enforcement across the state and across platforms.