

KEDC suspends partnership with photo company amid Epstein connection concerns

By Maggie Rickerby

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LEXINGTON, Ky. (WKYT) - The Kentucky Educational Development Corporation announced Tuesday it has suspended current and future use of Lifetouch Photography until a thorough investigation is conducted into the company's parent company connections to Jeffrey Epstein.

Schools across the country are ending partnerships with Lifetouch Photography after its parent company was linked to a former investment executive with ties to Epstein, according to the Department of Justice Epstein library.

KEDC CEO Nancy Hutchinson said the investigation could be independent and legal, depending on how the corporation chooses to proceed.

"We're always gonna do what we think is right for our school districts for the safety and wellbeing of our kiddos and their families," Hutchinson said.



MENIFEE COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT

Joshua Kincaid, Superintendent

February 20, 2026

Dear Parents, Guardians, and Families,

I am writing to inform you that Menifee County Schools has suspended photography services with Lifetouch as of this week. We are suspending services while we investigate the situation and consult with our attorney.

Out of an abundance of caution, we have paused all photography services until further legal guidance can be obtained. During this time, Lifetouch representatives have been directed not to schedule or visit any of our schools to take photos until further notice, including Botts Early Learning Center, Menifee Central, and Menifee County High School.

This decision is being made to ensure that all district agreements and practices align fully with our legal obligations and the best interests of our students and families. We understand that school photography services are an important tradition, and we appreciate your patience as we work through this matter.

We will provide updates as soon as additional information becomes available. If you have any questions or concerns, please reach out to the district office. Thank you for your understanding and continued support of Menifee County Schools.

Sincerely,

Joshua Kincaid, Superintendent
Menifee County School District
joshua.kincaid@menifee.kyschools.us

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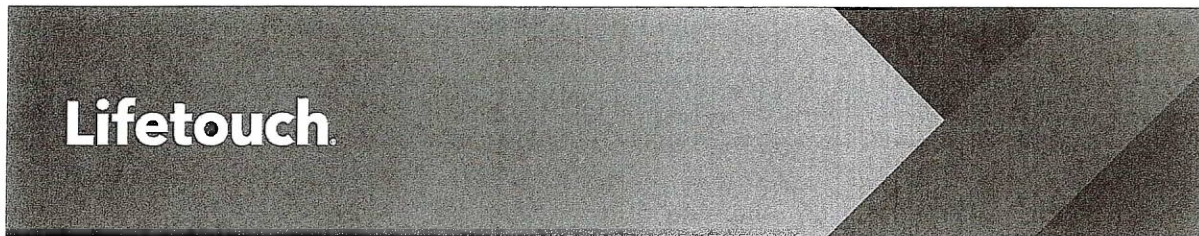
From: Lifetouch School Photography <lifetouch@m.lifetouch.com>

Sent: Monday, February 23, 2026 3:44 PM

To: Bartley, Lorri <lorri.bartley@menifee.kyschools.us>

Subject: Lifetouch Update: KEDC Contract Reinstated

[View in Browser](#)



Dear Lorri,

Your district recently received a letter from Kentucky Educational Development Corporation (KEDC) regarding a contract suspension involving Lifetouch. Since that letter was sent, we were notified today, February 23, that KEDC is reinstating our contract effective immediately.

Regardless, we believe it is important to hear directly from Lifetouch and are sharing the information below, so your district has the most accurate information.

These claims are completely false. In fact, reputable news sources are confirming there is no truth to these claims.

Since receiving notification, Lifetouch has proactively provided KEDC with comprehensive information addressing the claims referenced in their letter. Furthermore, when we submitted our original proposal in 2023 to KEDC we proactively provided data privacy information. While not asked for by KEDC, we felt it was important to share our commitment to student data privacy. We requested details regarding the scope of KEDC's investigation and an anticipated timeline for resolution. Today, February 23, we received an email stating "Following a careful and thorough review of the information provided, as well as information available from public sources, and after consultation with our attorney, we have decided to reinstate your contract effective immediately."

Lifetouch has been a proud partner to schools for 90 years, fiercely protecting student safety and capturing milestone moments for families. In Kentucky specifically, our local office has been providing school photography for over 40 years and works with over 90 school districts, and hundreds of schools. Many of us at Lifetouch are parents ourselves, living and working in your communities. We are dedicated to protecting the privacy of every family we serve.

Every Lifetouch photographer is a Lifetouch employee, not a contractor, and must pass a comprehensive background check. To be very clear, every Lifetouch photographer undergoes:

- Annual comprehensive background screenings;
- State-required fingerprinting and additional clearances where mandated; and

- Training on compliance with all applicable state and local laws on data privacy.

Key Facts About Student Privacy

- Parents and guardians retain full control of their child's photos.
- Student images are shared only with the school for educational and administrative purposes.
- No one at Apollo, its Board of Directors, or its investors has ever had access to student images or data.
- Lifetouch complies with all federal, state, and local privacy standards, including FERPA and SOC2.

We've included a set of FAQs and a family-ready communication template that other districts have used to address community questions with clarity and confidence.

Our Public Commitments to Safety and Privacy

- <https://lifetouch.com/privacy/>
- [Lifetouch FAQ - Lifetouch](#)
- <https://schools.lifetouch.com/blog/ensuring-privacy-for-every-student/>
- <https://schools.lifetouch.com/safety-security/>
- <https://schools.lifetouch.com/blog/a-message-from-ceo-ken-murphy-on-student-privacy/>

We remain fully committed to cooperating with KEDC and expect that a thorough review of the facts will confirm what we have consistently maintained: Lifetouch has upheld the highest standards of student data protection.

In the meantime, we welcome any questions you may have. For any inquiries, please contact:

Cathy Lis,
National Sales Executive
clis@lifetouch.com

Lifetouch_Statement_KEDC
This email was sent to: lorri.bartley@menifee.kyschools.us

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