



Kentucky Family Friendly School Certificate Quick Guide

Applications can be submitted at any time by any K-12 school. Applications to be considered for the 2023 certification will be scored between May 1st and Oct. 1st. Early Education Programs visit this website for slightly different instructions.

A Family Friendly Certified School:

Is a school that reflects widespread belief, knowledge, and skill in engaging all families as equal and productive partners in the education process. It is evident that staff employ multiple, equity-driven strategies to individualize engagement with families that respect their values and cultural backgrounds. Schools at this level have achieved true and meaningful partnership between families and educators.



**Kentucky Collaborative
for Families and Schools**

The Prichard Committee

How it Works

Anyone at the school can begin and lead the Certification process- a parent, teacher, principal or FRYSC for example.

The steps to certification are illustrated on the [Family Friendly Webpage](#) and include:

1. Take 5 minutes to get a [pulse check](#) using the 4-versions of Family School Partnership Grid.

How are you looking? Either way, keep going!



2. Skim the [KY Family and School Partnership Guide](#) for base knowledge (this is your family engagement textbook- it's ALL, I mean all, in there).

Feeling like you know what you're talking about now? Great, step #3



3. Get principal approval. Let them know you are interested in helping the school become [Family Friendly Certified](#) by Nov. 1st. They will need to be on board even if they aren't leading the effort. For them, this will mean a handful of meetings, an online module and completing the self-assessment.

Get a No?

Get a yes? Great! Full steam ahead!



4. Build a small team through PERSONAL invitations in person, by phone or 1-on-1 email. Make sure you have diversity of grade levels, lived experiences, and cultures. The diversity of the team can get better as you go but get outside the box of your "usual suspects." Contact your district office for support with interpretation or other barriers preventing families from participating.

Minimum:

- 2 teachers
- 2 families
- 1 building leader (principal or assistant principal)

Find one idea in the [Digital Playbook](#) and see if you could lead the activity as a single, one-time family engagement activity. [The Hopes and Dreams Letter](#) and [Ask About My Selfie](#) are always fan favorites. Keep trying these high-impact, yet simple ideas until something clicks and gains momentum.



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Our Partners:



TIP for #4: Do you already have a parent-teacher school team that could take on this work? Even Better! Existing PTA, FRYSC Advisory Council, and Equity Teams are great groups that could create a sub-committee to take on the Family Friendly work.

- Small Team Homework:
 - Each takes the online modules (3 hours)
 - Each completes the Family Friendly School Self-Assessment- separately, no cheating. (1 hour if you do it thoughtfully)
 - Set a deadline for completion and have folks email their results or bring to the meeting

Almost done!
One more!



- Get together and compare scores:
 - Host an in person meeting or Zoom Meeting (Food always helps and stipends for family leaders to cover gas, and childcare)
 - Discuss similarities, differences, surprises
 - Determine the average score across all Assessments



Congratulations!
YOU DID IT!

YAY!

What?! You might be ready to apply, or "recertify." The 2023 application window opens May 1st. Visit Ky Collaborative web page for application link.

Results:

Are you a Level 3 (48 points)?

YES!

No, we are a level 1 or 2.

Links:

Prichardcommittee.org/familyengagement
Includes:

- Application Link
- FAQ- and learn about Gold Status
- All the links and list of current Family Friendly Certified Schools
- Need support?
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That's ok. Most schools are the first time around and now you have a roadmap. Pick which Objective your team wants to start with and refer to the Digital Playbook for ideas on how you might raise your score. Decide as a team how often you will meet and who you might want to add to the group. Refer to the Guide about more Action Team processes and templates. You got this!