



Family Friendly Schools Certification 2023

Frequently Asked Questions

New for 2023

What has changed for certification in 2023?

- In 2023, schools may apply for Family Friendly status or Family Friendly (Gold) status. **Family Friendly Schools at the Gold Level work with families as co-creators and center all families in their work.**
- Parent members of your Family Engagement Action Team should not be employees of your school.
- Use the **new self-assessment** for your application.
- The application window has changed to **May 1 - October 1, 2023.**

What is different about the new self-assessment?

Based on feedback from school and community partners using the self-assessment in 2022, we made the following changes:

- We moved from a holistic rubric to a leveled rubric.
- We tested our rubric for readability and made changes, assuring that family partners will be better able to score the self-assessment.
- We added a Gold Level to recognize schools that engage in co-creation with families and center equity in the Family Engagement Action Plan.

Can my school still use the 2022 rubric?

All schools beginning their Family Friendly Certification work should use the new rubric. All schools re-scoring the self-assessment for re-certification should use the

new rubric. We highly recommend that other schools who completed the old self-assessment also move to the new self-assessment. **The new self-assessment is more user friendly and will save your team time.**

However, if your Family Engagement Action Team has a strong investment in using the old rubric, please contact Brooke Gill at brooke.gill@prichardcommittee.org

When should my school apply for Family Friendly Schools certification?

Submit your application any time between May 1 and October 1, 2023. **To be recognized at the Great Schools Summit in June, apply by May 31st.**

What if I apply for gold status but do not receive it?

Your school will most likely earn a general Family Friendly School certificate.

General FAQ

Where should my school start with the process?

Begin with #1 on <https://prichardcommittee.org/familyengagement/> and work your way through the 5 steps.

Where can I get help when I have questions?

Contact Brooke Gill at brooke.gill@prichardcommittee.org She will answer your questions and/or connect you with the technical assistant for your region of Kentucky.

Do I need to apply to begin this process?

No. The Family Friendly Schools Certificate is open to all Kentucky schools, but we'd love to hear from you and support your work as you get started!

Can my entire district apply for Family Friendly Schools status?

No, this process is designed for individual school teams. However, your district may make certification a priority and provide support so that all schools in a district certify.

Does KDE recognize Family Friendly School status?

Yes, KDE is a member of the Kentucky Collaborative for Families and Schools. KDE also uses the number of Family Friendly Schools as a non-academic indicator on their dashboard.

Can my FRYSC Advisory Board, PTA, or SBDM committee serve as my Family Engagement Action Team?

Yes, these existing groups are often an ideal choice because they bring together teachers, community partners, and family members. If your district is supporting the work toward Family Friendly certification, they may have other requirements for your team.

Can the FRYSC director assume responsibility for all pieces of the work?

No. While FRYSC is at the heart of this work, the work requires buy-in from building administrators. There are many pieces of the self-assessment that are linked to learning and academics, and it is important to have a strong representation from faculty and leadership on your team. Ideally, the building principal should designate a committee lead to drive the application process so that FRYSC time is not diverted from their mission of service.

Is there anything else our team needs to do besides do the self-assessment?

Yes, there are several other steps in the process. Be sure to go through all of the steps on the Kentucky Collaborative for Families and Schools homepage.

What is the biggest hurdle that schools have faced so far in turning in their applications?

Completing the training modules and submitting the completion form for the modules for each member of the action team. We want this process to be accessible to your staff and families. If you are having difficulty, contact Brooke Gill at brooke.gill@prichardcommittee.org

Can I see example applications?

Yes, we will release a new set of sample applications in 2023.

Do the same people have to complete the self-assessment, do the training modules, and serve on the team?

No, this is often most convenient for you, but it is not required. Families, teachers, and building leaders must serve in all phases of the process, but they do not have to be the same individual people for each.

Can the parent members on the team also be school employees?

No. In 2022, we allowed schools to have one employee-parent on their team. For 2023, both parents should not be school employees. Parents may be employed by the district in other schools or other roles.

FAQ for recertifying schools

Does my team need to repeat the modules?

No, you do not need to repeat the modules. However, your team needs to do Professional Development around family engagement best practices each year. The recertification form will ask you to list the PD you used.

Does my team need to re-score the self-assessment?

Yes, this is a continuous improvement process, and revisiting the self-assessment periodically helps you stay on track with your plans. Please use the new self-assessment.

Should all recertifying schools apply for gold status?

No, you should score the new self-assessment and then determine which level is appropriate for you.

How is the application for recertification different?

Rather than filling out the complete narrative and evidence for objectives and critical attributes, you will explain new strategies for the current year, any strategies you've dropped for the current year, and what you are doing in place of dropped strategies. There will be a new google doc specifically for recertifying schools.



**Kentucky Collaborative
for Families and Schools**

The Prichard Committee

Additional Questions: brooke.gill@prichardcommittee.org

Resources: <https://prichardcommittee.org/familyengagement/>