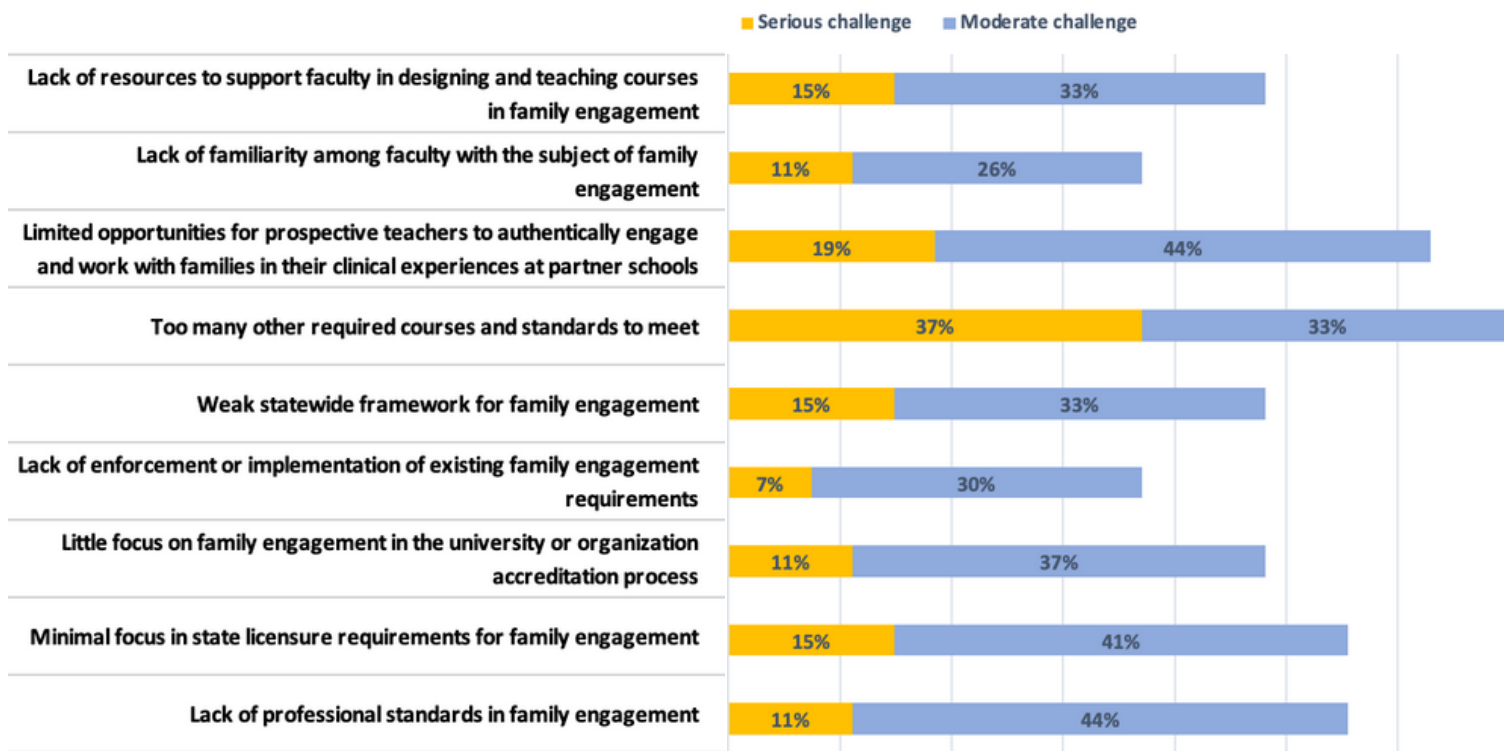




**Student learning improves when schools and teachers engage with all families.  
Prospective teachers need new opportunities to learn how to engage with families  
before entering the classroom.**

### Challenges to Integrating Family Engagement in Educator Preparation



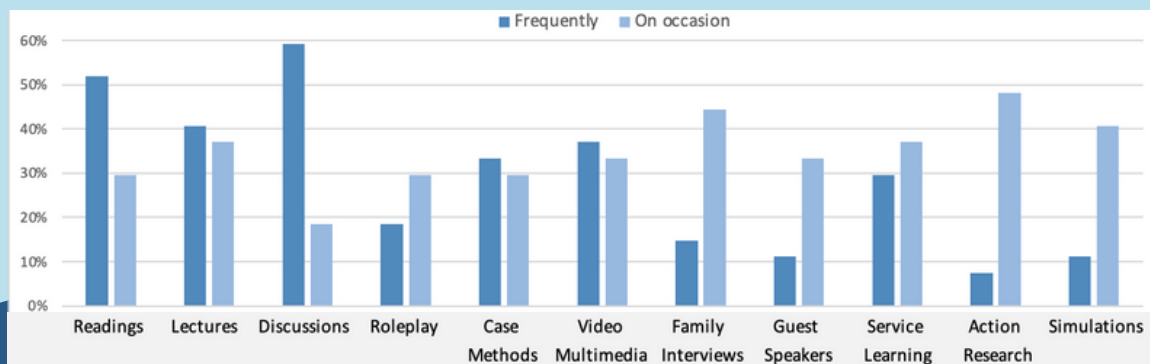
#### Family Engagement Coursework

#### Stand-alone Courses

- 22% offer stand-alone Family Engagement course
- 83% of the stand-alone courses are for early childhood prospective teachers

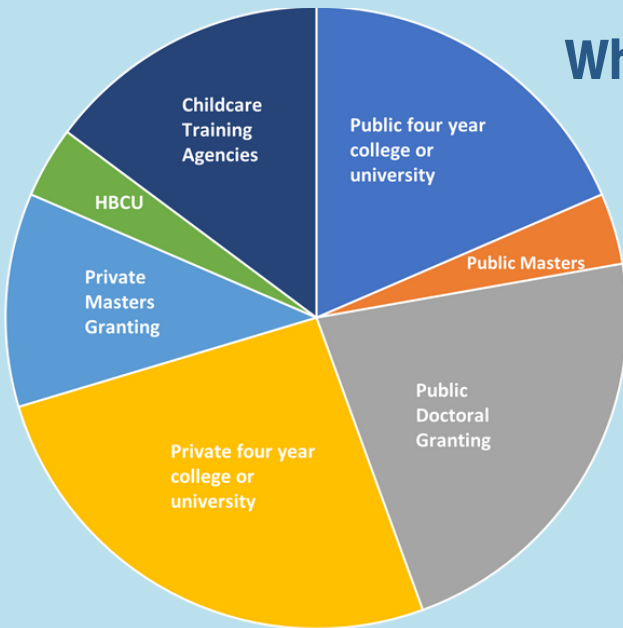
#### Family Engagement Content Embedded

- 70% Teaching Children with Special Needs
- 56% Classroom Management
- 52% Multicultural and Culturally Sustaining Pedagogy



#### Instructional Strategies Used

## Who Responded?



- 100% of public institutions responded
- 66% administrators, 33% faculty
- 33% graduate more than 100 per year, 26% graduate fewer than 25 per year
- 74% of respondents reported that, given the opportunity, they are likely or very likely to strengthen their personal knowledge and understanding of family engagement

### Frequency of Family Engagement Topics

Building on family knowledge and expertise



Engaging families as leaders in school planning



Building partnerships with community organizations



Linking family engagement to learning at home



Understanding and engaging diverse families



Building reciprocal relationships



**Familiarity with Kentucky organizations with a family engagement component**

### Organizations Most Familiar With

|   |     |
|---|-----|
| Kentucky Department of Education (KDE)                        | 96% |
| Federal Title Programs (e.g. Title I, Title III)              | 89% |
| Family Resources and Youth Service Centers (FRYSC)            | 85% |
| The Prichard Committee for Academic Excellence                | 81% |
| Kentucky Center for Mathematics (KCTM)                        | 70% |
| Kentucky PTA  | 59% |
| Kentucky Collaborative Center for Literacy Development (CCLD) | 56% |

### Bellarmine University

- The Annsley Frazier Thornton School of Education collaborates with the Nursing Program, using their simulation center's observation and recording technology. Pairing the technology with strategically crafted family-centered scenarios, created by the simulation center staff, prospective teachers are able to simulate interactions with families, facilitating mentor feedback. The center also facilitates the human resources needed to implement the scenarios.
- Dr. Amy Lein has prospective teachers in special education courses through simulated IEP meetings and parent-teacher conferences.

### Eastern Kentucky University

- Prospective Elementary teachers in Methods Block participate in Family Engagement Workshop led by Brooke Gill, Senior Director, Family Engagement, Prichard Committee
- Extended campus prospective teachers participate in family events in the community

### Childcare Council of Kentucky

- Offers a training session guided by the new Family Guide from the Kentucky Governor's Office of Early Childhood and KET.
- Prospective childcare providers
  - analyze the Family Guide's five areas of learning
  - discuss keys to kindergarten readiness
  - identify Family Guide resources
- Engaging families is key because
  - families are first and most important teacher
  - 90% of brain growth happens in 1st five years
  - preparation for school readiness and success

### Western Governors University

"The Schools as a Community of Care" is a required key component course in the Professional Core for all initial licensure candidates.

Through this course prospective teachers

- learn to collaborate effectively with families and community to facilitate learner growth and well-being,
- prepare to meet the social and emotional needs of learners through an understanding of learner development theories and philosophies
- participate in seven hours of field experience focused on family engagement.



### Morehead State University

- Awarded a two-year (2021 and 2022) KDE Grant for Preschool Families of Children with Special Needs.
- Participants included faculty, preschool teachers, and families of children with special needs and extended into 16 eastern Kentucky counties.
- 2021 results indicate Professional Learning Communities and training activities led to
  - steady growth of the preschool children's learning,
  - positive development of family time and emotional ties among family members,
  - closer relationship and professional bonds with their preschool teachers, and
  - improvement in sibling development.

### Preparing Educators for Partnerships (KY PrEP)

- Prichard Committee is the lead on KY PrEP, a collaborative grant awarded by NAFSCE
- Partners include Morehead State University, Eastern Kentucky University, Rowan County Schools, and Madison County Schools, and additional field sites in Corbin Independent and Menifee County Schools
- Families, teachers, faculty, prospective teachers will inform the prospective teacher seminars and projects
- Prospective teachers will engage with families in the field through their projects
- Findings and Educator Preparation commitments will be presented at the KACTE Summer 2023 Conference

## CALL TO ACTION

1

**Plan to attend KACTE Summer 2023 Conference** which will highlight the progress of Family Partnership learning in Educator Preparation Programs. Date and Location to be announced.

2

**Resources for action:**  
**The Kentucky Collaborative for Families and Schools**  
<https://prichardcommittee.org/familyengagement/>  
**NAFSCE Educator Preparation Initiative**  
<https://nafsce.org/page/edprep>  
**The Dual Capacity-Building Framework**  
<https://www.dualcapacity.org>

If you would like to be part of this work or have questions email [edna.schack@gmail.com](mailto:edna.schack@gmail.com) or [brooke.gill@prichardcommittee.org](mailto:brooke.gill@prichardcommittee.org)  
 We gratefully acknowledge the support of the  
**National Association of Family, School, and Community Engagement (NAFSCE).**



**Kentucky Collaborative for Families and Schools**  
 The Prichard Committee