



# Building Schools Where Every Family Thrives

Family Friendly Schools Certification from the Prichard Committee for Academic Excellence

## » BIG IMPACT, GROWING REACH



# 101

schools certified... and counting!

approximately

# 31,000

students served



## » WHAT A STATEWIDE STUDY FOUND

Family Friendly Schools Certification promotes intentional family engagement practices. A six-month validation study performed by FHI 360 found strong alignment between how schools described family engagement and how teachers and parents experienced them, as well as small improvement in reading scores and teachers' perceived ability to manage student behavior.



## » KEY FINDINGS

The certification process:



Accurately identifies schools with strong engagement



Drives improvement AND recognition



Builds educator confidence



Supports strong relationships, trust, belonging, and communication



Shows early modest gains in reading outcomes

## » WHAT FAMILIES HAVE TO SAY

“ Everybody is working to support them. The kids are so much more confident now. They feel like they have an avenue to ask for help if they need it.

**The school feels like home.** ”

– North Washington Elementary parent

Center photo: Daralyn Kirkpatrick, center, stands with her sons outside North Washington Elementary, a certified family-friendly school in Willisburg, KY. Photo by Jessica Scranton for FHI 360.



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## » **TEACHER CONFIDENCE**

FFS teachers gain confidence across all areas of family engagement.



- Communication
- Collaboration for learning
- Partnering
- Honoring families
- Equity

# 99%

of surveyed FFS teachers say they can build relationships with families different from them.



# 89%

of FFS families agree that "There are many different ways I can be involved with the school."

## » **WHAT DISTRICT LEADERS HAVE TO SAY**

“Prior to the certification, we were involving families, but it was haphazard. After the certification work, we were able to analyze what we were doing and really make it better—to utilize the research to improve and get families engaged in the process.”

– District Staff Member

## » **WHAT EDUCATORS HAVE TO SAY**

“Schools are already doing it [engaging families]. It's just being intentional about it and examining how you can grow and work with your families. So it's a great process.”

– Middle School Principal



Find out how to apply to become a certified National Family Friendly School at [prichardcommittee.org/nffs](http://prichardcommittee.org/nffs)



# NATIONAL FAMILY FRIENDLY SCHOOLS



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