



KENTUCKY COMMUNITY SCHOOLS

Building a **GROUNDWELL**

in partnership with the Prichard Committee

Creating meaningful connections where students and families are invested, schools are inviting, and communities are involved

Carter County Schools

Prichard Elementary School Action Plan Snapshot

1. Population, Desired Results, and Indicators

Prichard Elementary School aims to ensure that all students are healthy, prepared for their future paths, and supported by stable environments. The school emphasizes strong partnerships between school, family, and community, and prioritizes academic success, including readiness for kindergarten. Progress toward these goals will be monitored through indicators such as attendance, behavior, and academic performance

2. What is the story behind the curve?

46% of our 3rd graders achieved proficiency or distinction on state reading assessments, matching the state average. This improvement is linked to the use of i-Ready data, targeted interventions, and enhanced teacher professional development. Behavior incidents at Prichard Elementary have decreased compared to pre-Covid levels (2018-19). Only 2.2% of the 608 students were involved in behavior events, thanks to the Trauma-Informed Approach and the EBD Unit with de-escalation spaces. We are proud of our agreements with several providers that enable students to access mental health and dental services during school hours, with dedicated school space for these services. However, 34% of students are chronically absent and economically disadvantaged, and 11% are chronically absent but not economically disadvantaged. This is up from 152 students in 2018-19, influenced by post-Covid mental health issues, lack of communication, and environmental challenges and our Kindergarten readiness dropped from 63.8% in 2018-19 to 45% in 2022-23, just below the state average of 46%. Factors include reduced social opportunities and fewer pre-K experiences due to disruptions in early education.

3. Locally Set Indicators (based on Areas of Concern)

#/% of chronically absent students decreases.

Strategies for Active Family and Community Engagement

- **Family Friendly School Certification:** In an effort to build strong relationships between our school and our families we will work toward becoming a Family Friendly School through the Prichard Committee.
- **Parent Engagement Events:** We will offer new events aimed to boost family involvement by addressing a variety of topics tailored to the community's interests and needs. Proposed topics include Using Chromebooks & Technology, Accessing the Parent Portal, Game Nights, Financial Literacy, School Assessment Information, Health & Mental Health Information, Homework Help, and Cooking on a Budget.
- **Family Engagement Meetings (PEMs):** These established meetings are conducted to determine root causes of attendance issues. This program is a collaboration with the Director of Pupil Personnel, the FRC Coordinator, and the Northeast Community Action Agency - Collaboration for Children. Parents of children who have chronic absenteeism meet with the FRC Coordinator and the PEM Coordinator at the Northeast Community Action Agency to discuss the importance of attendance and determine why their child is not attending school. When the root cause is identified, referrals are made to appropriate community resources and/or the issue is addressed.
- **Communication Plan redesign:** In partnership with our families we will develop a plan that will provide a new roadmap for consistent and effective communication strategies including, streamlining communication; determining family's preferred method(s) of communication; developing a school directory and strengthening communication between families and teachers.
- **Establish an active partnership with Head Start:** We currently have an existing partnership with Head Start, however we would like to enhance this relationship to be able to serve students before they come to kindergarten.
- **Early Literacy Program for Families:** An early literacy program will be offered to caregivers (birth to age 3) to provide them with the knowledge, skills, and resources they need to support their child's pre-literacy development. This program will be a collaborative effort with Early Head Start and the district's preschool director.

Strategies for Integrated Student Supports

- **Mentoring Program:** We would like to develop and implement a partnership with East Carter High School and Kentucky Christian University students to provide mentoring activities to address self-confidence, self-esteem, social and mental health.
- **Increase Mental Health Opportunities:** Increasing our partnerships with Mountain Comp., Care Center, Pathways & ReGroup we will be able to assist the school counselor ensure that students' mental-health needs are adequately met.
- **Vision Services:** Partnerships/collaborations will be sought to provide vision services to students. Students are currently provided with a basic (eye chart) exam but there is no follow through to ensure that the child sees an optometrist if referred.

Strategies for Expanded and Enriched Learning Time and Opportunities

- **Summer Reading Program:** We want to partner with the Carter County Public Library to expand and enhance their summer reading program to be able to offer services to more Prichard Elem. students.
- **After-School Clubs/Activities for Students:** We will be introducing two new after-school student interest programs, coordinated by the 4-H Extension Agent, will increase student engagement and interest in after-school activities. These programs will provide students with opportunities to explore their interests, develop new skills and build connections with their peers.

Strategies for Collaborative Leadership and Practices to Support High-Quality Teaching

- **Create a Video Library for Families Focusing on Math Concepts:** Creating a Video Library of instruction concepts for families to access when helping their child with homework will be initiated during the 2024-2025 school year. The Video Library will support student learning at home and strengthen the home-school partnership in promoting student success.
- **Community and Family Engagement:**
 - Families will be invited to join the Commonwealth Institute for Parent Leadership (CIPL) to strengthen partnerships between the school and families.
 - School administrators, community partners, and the Family Resource Center Coordinator will be encouraged to attend key KCSI trainings and conferences, including:
 - CIPL Facilitator Training (Sept 11-13, Lexington, KY)
 - Kentucky Community Schools Initiative Networking (Nov 12-13, Lexington, KY)
 - National Community Schools Conference (Date TBD)
 - 2025 Groundswell Conference (Date TBD)

**Be a part of the change by attending an upcoming Community School Team meeting.
Get connected below.**

- Prichard Elementary School Community School District Director: Pam Kouns pam.kouns@carter.kyschools.us
- Prichard Elementary School Community School State Coach: Andrea McKeehan;
andream@prichardcommittee.org
- School Webpage: <https://cartercountyschools.wixsite.com/prichard>
- School or District Social Media: <https://www.facebook.com/CarterCoSchools>
- Full School Action Plan: [2024-2025 Carter-PES Action Plan](#)