

The 7th Annual Family Engagement
Leadership Summit

welcome!

we will begin
shortly...

**Ohio Statewide
Family Engagement Center**

For Every Child, Every Family, Every School

Principals Leading Family Friendly Schools



NATIONAL
FAMILY FRIENDLY
SCHOOLS



NATIONAL FAMILY FRIENDLY SCHOOLS

A National Certification, Continuous Improvement and Celebration
Initiative for Strengthening Family and School Partnerships

Imagine

If you woke up tomorrow and one challenge in families and schools partnering effectively together, was completely solved what would it be? Be as specific as you can.

Share your name, role, school and your answer to this in the chat.



Photo by Jessica Scranton for FHI 360



The Prichard Committee

Building a Groundswell for a Big Bold Future



Principals Leading Family Friendly Schools

- Mandy Sagrecy, Washington County Middle School
- Beth Hathaway, Ryland Heights Elementary

The Problem

- Families want to support learning, but school systems are often confusing, inconsistent and hard to navigate
- Educators want deeper family engagement but most lack formal training or the time to learn and try new ideas.
- Meaningful family engagement is hard to track and measure



Photo by Jessica Scranton for FHI 360



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The Problem

- When family engagement isn't baked into the school culture and everyday routines it starts and stops with leadership changes and varies widely from teacher to teacher
- The wide variety of strong family partnership programs, trainings and frameworks available to schools can make it harder to connect, compare practices, and learn from one another.
- Schools going the extra mile often receive little to no public recognition so momentum fades



Photo by Jessica Scranton for FHI 360



The Prichard Committee

Building a Groundswell for a Big Bold Future

The Solution



A **national certification and continuous improvement process** that helps schools **strengthen, sustain, and celebrate** meaningful family partnerships to **improve student success.**



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The Solution



“When we looked at the certification requirements, it was **a moment of validation**. It gave us a formal framework to measure what we were already doing and, more importantly, **highlighted the gaps** we hadn’t yet considered. The certification process wasn’t cumbersome; rather, it acted as **a roadmap**. It helped to turn our “good intentions” into a **structured, sustainable school improvement** strategy.”

- FFS Elementary Assistant Principal



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FHI 360 Validation Study



Growth and Sustainability Findings

4-Year Growth: 34 → 134 schools (~294% increase)

Strong Retention:

81% recertification (2022–2025)

87% recertification (2024–2025)

Diverse Implementation Across School Types:

50% Elementary Schools

30% Early Care and Education

13% Middle & High Schools

7% Other (K–12, K–8, Intermediate)

Key Takeaway:

Growth and sustainability driven by **value and impact**, not mandates or funding requirements



Photo by Jessica Scranton for FHI 360

FHI 360 Validation Study



Overall Impact

The new study, led [FHI 360](#), is based on surveys of more than 650 educators and families, school visits, focus groups, interviews, and analysis of statewide data. [The report concludes](#) that FFS Certification process

1. **Identifies schools** with strong family engagement practices
2. Strengthens **educator confidence** and capacity to engage families
3. Improves communications and **trust with families**
4. Supports early gains in **reading outcomes**
5. Provides structure for **continued improvement**



Photo by Jessica Scranton for FHI 360

FHI 360 Validation Study



Teacher Findings

90%+ of FFS teachers report:

- I am able to prioritize partnering with families, **even when I have a lot to do.**
- I can **communicate student progress to families** in ways they understand.
- I can work **with families to advocate for change in my school.**

95% of FFS teachers report:

- I am capable of **assisting families in helping** their children do well in school.
- I can **confidently talk** with families about concerns for struggling students.
- I can **use various communication methods** to reach families.



Photo by Jessica Scranton for FHI 360



Reflection

- What is one thing you heard that made you excited?
- What is one question you still have as we go into the principal panel?

Principal Panel



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- Beth Hathaway, Ryland Heights Elementary

We want to hear from you. As questions come up for you, please put them in the chat.

Q & A



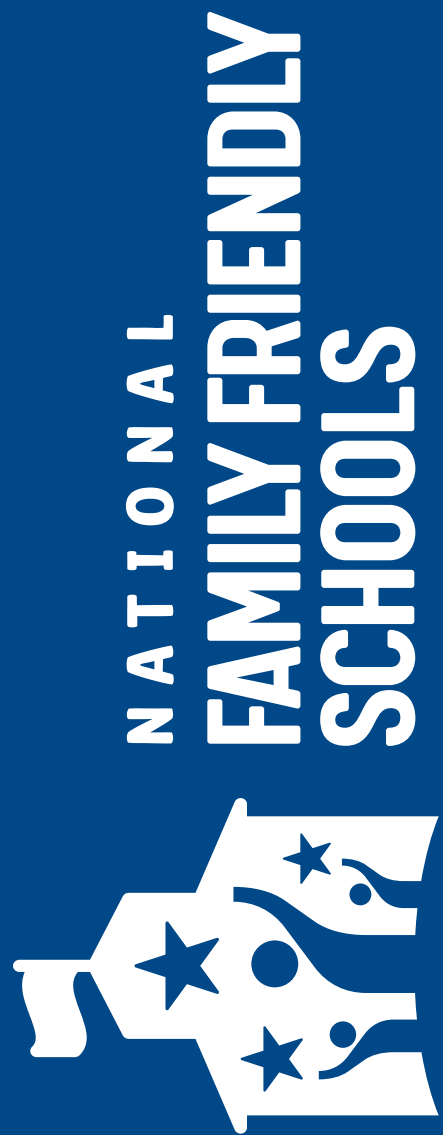
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Learn More About Family Friendly Schools

Complete the interest form and the Family Friendly team will follow up with next steps.



Or email: familyfriendly@prichardcommittee.org



Final Thoughts

“Becoming a Family Friendly School **has not only strengthened our school environments but also deepened our commitment to authentic, meaningful family engagement.** It has provided us with the **tools and knowledge to continuously improve** and better serve our families, while also aligning our practices with our district’s broader strategic goals. The journey has been challenging at times, but the results are undeniable: **a more engaged community, stronger relationships, and a deeper understanding of what it means to truly be family-friendly.**”

- Robin Cochran, Superintendent, Washington County Schools, Kentucky

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**THE OHIO STATE
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