

Kentucky Principals, Building Leaders, and Administrators,

Welcome back. As school begins, we want to extend a word of encouragement and offer support as you begin implementing plans for student instruction in the coming months. Your role in leading and supporting the district and school level mission is invaluable to Kentucky students and their families. Thank you for taking on the responsibility that comes with executing a district and school plan.

- **Becoming Family Friendly School Certified**- In March, we launched the [Family Friendly School Certification](#) for Kentucky schools and early care centers. Research shows that when families are meaningfully engaged in their children’s learning and development, it promotes overall success in academic achievement, social-emotional well-being, and family-teacher relationships. We encourage you to support your school in obtaining Family Friendly Certification this year. To be considered for the 2022 recognition you must submit before Nov. 1st, 2022. We recommend identifying someone in the school to take a look at our [School Year Break Down](#) and our [Pulse Check](#) on Family Engagement. These are great places to start without overwhelming your team. One Kentucky principal described the experience as *“helping her transition from one-off family engagement to a system that is integrated and planned.”*
- **Supporting Family Leadership**- Review policies for volunteerism and engagement with a few families in your school. For guidance on background check requirements check out the [Guidance Document](#) and ensure staff who are collecting background checks for volunteers, understand the policies and options for families. Families have several opportunities to serve in the local district from the BOE to SBDM. Encouraging families as partners in decision-making is critical to authentic engagement and trust building in a school. Check out other opportunities for parents to serve in leadership roles and consider nominating parent leaders in your school for the [CIPL Fellowship](#).
- **Connecting Community Engagement**- [The Groundswell Initiative](#) serves as a resource gathering hub for community profiles, actions that improve student outcomes, and mobilization of communities to invest their time and talent to improve education at the local level.
- **Mark Your School Calendar**: Nov. 14th-18th for Kentucky Family Engagement in Education Week! Follow @kycipl on Facebook and @kyfamengage on Twitter.

We want to uplift and applaud the innovative work being done in our state for education and solicit you [to share](#) the notable examples of this work unfolding in the upcoming school year. Visit [Prichard](#) for additional resources. Thank you for your hard work and dedication to families, their students, your communities, and our future!



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