



# PARTNERSHIP STATE AWARDS

NATIONAL NETWORK OF PARTNERSHIP SCHOOLS  
AT JOHNS HOPKINS UNIVERSITY

*Working Together for Student Success*

**2003-04 School Year**

STATE DEPARTMENTS OF EDUCATION in the National Network of Partnership Schools (NNPS) are working to develop and improve their leadership and programs of school, family, and community partnerships.



Some states have **EXCELLENT** partnership programs with:

- strong leaders and outstanding teamwork
- annual leadership plans for partnerships
- interdepartmental connections
- activities that facilitate the partnership programs of districts and schools in the state
- networking activities that link the state, districts and schools to each other and to NNPS
- an emphasis on partnerships linked to school goals for successful students
- evaluations of state, district, and school progress on partnerships
- improvements in the state's activities on partnerships and in the number and quality of district and school programs of partnership from year to year.

**Partnership State Awards** for the 2003-04 school year will recognize STATE DEPARTMENTS OF EDUCATION that have been members of the National Network of Partnership schools for **at least two years** and have **EXCELLENT** programs of school, family, and community partnerships.

The annual awards are based on written applications from states in NNPS and careful reviews by NNPS at Johns Hopkins University. Award winners will receive:



**A Partnership State Award plaque.**



**One free registration for the NNPS Leadership Development Conference in Fall 2003 or Spring 2004 (a \$200 value).**



**Recognition in *Type 2* and on the Network's website, in *Education Week*, and in other local and national education news media.**



**NEW for 2004! \$500 and SPECIAL RECOGNITION**

Up to 10 school, district, state, or organization award winners will receive **SPECIAL RECOGNITION** and a check for \$500 to support their programs of school, family, and community partnerships. They will be invited to present their programs at an NNPS conference and serve in other leadership and advisory roles for the next school year.

# PARTNERSHIP STATE AWARDS

## NNPS EXPECTATIONS

The National Network of Partnership Schools expects states with **EXCELLENT** programs to:

- ★ Maintain active state leadership for school, family, and community partnerships.
- ★ Write and implement annual plans for statewide partnership activities.
- ★ Write and implement annual plans with activities that facilitate school districts and schools to develop comprehensive partnership programs with the six types of involvement.
- ★ Maintain a budget to support the staff and activities of the state's program of school, family, and community partnerships.
- ★ Allocate time for regularly scheduled leadership meetings and work on partnerships.
- ★ Encourage districts and schools to connect their plans for family and community involvement to school improvement goals for student success.
- ★ Conduct end-of-year activities and evaluations of the quality of the state's program of partnerships and progress of partnership programs in districts and schools.
- ★ Improve the organization and quality of the state's leadership and program of partnerships each year.
- ★ Increase connections from year to year with colleagues across departments and in other organizations.
- ★ Increase the number of districts and schools in the state that develop partnership programs and that improve the quality of their programs from one year to the next.
- ★ Ensure program continuity with strategies to orient new leaders to the state's work on partnerships.
- ★ Encourage districts and schools to network with others and to become members of NNPS.
- ★ Communicate with NNPS annually and participate in NNPS activities.

## WHO SHOULD APPLY?

Key contacts in State Departments of Education that:

- ★ Have been a member of the National Network of Partnership Schools for at for **at least two years**, including the 2002-03 and 2003-04 school years.
- ★ Organized state leadership activities to encourage, support, and enable **districts** and/or **schools** in the state to build their programs of school, family, and community partnerships and to join NNPS.
- ★ Returned the NNPS *2004 STATE UPDATE* to renew membership for the 2004-05 school year. If 2004 *UPDATE* was not already submitted, please ATTACH IT to this application.

NOTE: States in NNPS that are not ready to apply this year are encouraged to review the NNPS expectations (above), strengthen the quality of their programs of school, family, and community partnerships, and apply for a Partnership State Award next year.

Visit past Partnership Award winners on NNPS' website at [www.partnershipschools.org](http://www.partnershipschools.org). Click on "In the Spotlight" and follow the link to Partnership Award Winners.

## HOW TO APPLY?

**Applications must be typed, double-spaced, and NO MORE THAN 10 PAGES (not including attachments)**

- ★ Send the Application Cover Page and the completed application, postmarked by June 30, 2004, to:

**Dr. Joyce L. Epstein and Awards Committee**  
**National Network of Partnership Schools**  
**Johns Hopkins University**  
**3003 N. Charles Street, Suite 200**  
**Baltimore, MD 21218**

Late applications will NOT be considered. Award winners will be notified in August 2004.

# PARTNERSHIP STATE AWARDS

## APPLICATION

Please answer all sections to describe how your program of school, family, and community partnerships addresses NNPS' expectations for **EXCELLENCE**.

NOTE: "Short Answers" may be a sentence or two. "Highlights" may be one-half to one page in length. The full application should be no more than 10 typed, double-spaced pages, not including attachments.

### 1. LEADERSHIP (15 points)

#### DESCRIBE (5 points/short answer)

How is your office's leadership for school, family, and community partnerships connected to the leadership structure of the State Department of Education?

#### HIGHLIGHT (10 points)

How would a new State Superintendent or a new head of your department learn about your office's work on school, family, and community partnerships? In your answer, include examples of how you have oriented new leaders and colleagues to your program of partnerships over the past two years.

### 2. TEAMWORK (20 points)

#### DESCRIBE (5 points/short answers)

- How often and for what reasons do you meet with colleagues from your office, other departments, and/or other organizations about school, family, and community partnerships?
- What are some of the responsibilities that these colleagues have undertaken to help improve school, family, and community partnerships in the state?

#### HIGHLIGHT (15 points)

Report **one** example of a successful activity to increase school, family, and community partnerships that your office organized that illustrates good **state-level teamwork**. Note the positions of colleagues, supervisors, or other "team players" who worked with you on this activity or who supported it in important ways. Discuss how **teamwork** helped make this activity successful.

### 3. PLANS FOR ACTION (20 points)

#### DESCRIBE (5 points/short answers)

- How do you and your colleagues decide *which* activities to include in your annual leadership plan for partnerships (including statewide leadership activities and actions that support districts and/or schools)?
- How does your leadership plan link family and community involvement to student achievement and other important goals for student success?

#### HIGHLIGHT (5 points)

Discuss **two** actions that your office has included in its plans for the **2004-05 school year (next year)** to improve its program of school, family, and community partnerships. Explain how each of the two actions will help increase the **number** and/or **quality** of partnership programs in districts and schools in your state.

#### ATTACHMENT (10 points)

Please attach **two** documents that illustrate your office's leadership plans, schedules of activities, or other evidence of state actions on partnerships for the 2002-03 and 2003-04 school years. The two attachments must be from **two different school years**. They may refer to different leadership activities (e.g., conferences on partnerships, training workshop agendas, grant program descriptions, or other evidence of leadership).

# PARTNERSHIP STATE AWARDS

## APPLICATION, page 2

### 4. IMPLEMENTATION (15 points)

#### DESCRIBE (5 points/short answers)

- List **two** examples of activities your office conducts to help **districts and schools** develop and sustain comprehensive programs of school, family, and community partnerships.
- Describe **two** groups or audiences of district, school, or other professionals that you or your colleagues addressed in the past two years to increase their knowledge or skills on partnerships.

#### HIGHLIGHT (10 points)

Discuss fully **one** example of a difficult challenge that your office solved over the past two years to improve your state's leadership and programs of school, family, and community partnerships.

### 5. EVALUATION (15 points)

#### DESCRIBE (5 points/short answers)

What tools does your office use at the end of each school year to document or evaluate. . . :

- ...the quality and/or progress of the **state's** program and practices of partnerships?
- ...the quality and/or progress of **districts' and/or schools'** programs and practices of family and community involvement?

#### HIGHLIGHT (10 points)

**Report the results of one evaluation** that your office conducted in 2003 or 2004 to assess the **quality** or **progress** of state, district, or school partnership programs or activities. Include information on the measure(s) used or observations made and the results of the assessment. Describe how your office used (or will use) the results of that assessment.

### 6. NETWORK CONNECTIONS (10 points)

#### DESCRIBE (5 points/short answer)

Describe how you help districts and/or schools in your state "network" with each other, and how you connect districts and/or schools with the resources of the National Network of Partnership Schools.

#### HIGHLIGHT (5 points)

Suppose a leader from another state department of education called you and wanted to know:

*Should my state join the National Network of Partnership Schools to develop leadership and programs of school, family, and community partnerships?*

What would be your advice, and why?

### 7. RECOMMENDATION (5 points)

#### ATTACHMENT (5 points)

Please ask **one supervisor or other administrator** to write a letter of support that addresses this question:

*From your view, how has this state's program of school, family, and community partnerships contributed to the state's school improvement efforts?*

NOTE: The letter should be on letterhead, addressed to the Partnership Awards Committee, and signed.

**Please check: Have you fully answered all 7 sections of the application?**



NATIONAL NETWORK OF PARTNERSHIP SCHOOLS  
AT JOHNS HOPKINS UNIVERSITY

2004

## APPLICATION COVER PAGE

1. Name of State Department of Education: \_\_\_\_\_
2. Key Contact(s) to the  
National Network of Partnership Schools: \_\_\_\_\_
3. State Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
4. Phone: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ Fax: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_
5. E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_ Website: \_\_\_\_\_
6. State Superintendent: \_\_\_\_\_
7. Whom should we contact this summer if there are questions about this application?  
Name of summer contact: \_\_\_\_\_  
Summer phone: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

## APPLICATION DUE JUNE 30, 2004

Please ✓ that your application package includes:

- Application Cover Page
- Double-spaced, typed responses to all questions (no more than 10 pages)
- All attachments (i.e., two documents of leadership activities from two school years and recommendation letter)



# **PARTNERSHIP STATE AWARDS**



**APPLICATION DUE JUNE 30, 2004**

**Send your completed application (including this cover page, your typed responses, and all attachments) to:**

**Dr. Joyce L. Epstein and Awards Committee  
National Network of Partnership Schools  
Johns Hopkins University  
3003 N. Charles Street, Suite 200  
Baltimore, MD 21218**

**Questions? Contact Kenyatta Williams, Network Coordinator:  
Tel: 410-516-2318  
Fax: 410-516-8890  
e-mail: [kwilliams@csos.jhu.edu](mailto:kwilliams@csos.jhu.edu)**

**[www.partnershipschools.org](http://www.partnershipschools.org)**

**THANK YOU for your leadership  
in the National Network of Partnership Schools,  
and for your state's work on  
school, family, and community partnerships!**



**NATIONAL NETWORK OF  
Partnership Schools  
JOHNS HOPKINS UNIVERSITY**