



NATIONAL NETWORK OF
Partnership Schools
JOHNS HOPKINS UNIVERSITY

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Dear Colleague:

You are invited . . . You are invited to join the National Network of Partnership Schools (NNPS) at Johns Hopkins University. NNPS invites schools, districts, states, and organizations to work together to improve their leadership and programs of school, family, and community partnerships. Based on more than two decades of research and field tests, we know that this goal can be attained by all elementary, middle, and high schools, and that district, state, and organization leaders can play important roles in assisting schools to improve partnerships in ways that increase student success.

About NNPS . . . NNPS guides school teams of educators, parents, and community partners to use a research-based framework of six types of involvement (*parenting, communicating, volunteering, learning at home, decision making, and collaborating with the community*) to plan and conduct comprehensive partnership programs. Researchers and facilitators at Johns Hopkins University train and assist school, district, state, and organization leaders to understand, implement, evaluate, and continually improve goal-oriented programs of partnerships. In NNPS, researchers, educators, families, and policy leaders work together to improve the effectiveness and effects of family and community involvement.

NNPS includes over 1000 schools, over 150 districts, 21 states, and many organizations that want to use research-based approaches to improve the quality of family and community involvement and results for students. The NNPS website, www.partnershipschools.org, includes information on key program components (see [NNPS Model](#)), research summaries, and examples of outstanding programs and practices (see [Success Stories](#)). Also view the [NNPS video, Working Together for Student Success](#), to learn about the components, services, and education leaders' experiences in NNPS, in the section Publications and Products.

Requirements . . . Schools, districts, states, and organizations that join the National Network of Partnership Schools must meet a few requirements described on the membership form. Our research identified 8 essential elements of successful programs: leadership, teamwork, written plans, implemented action, funding, collegial support, evaluation, and networking. You must be willing to meet (or work to establish) the basic requirements listed on the membership form to join NNPS. Then, NNPS will assist you to develop all of the essential elements for a research-based program that will improve from year to year.

One NNPS requirement is for all members to return an **annual UPDATE survey** to report progress and challenges during the school year. This exchange of information with members is so important that **NNPS waives the annual renewal fee for all members that return UPDATE** (see below).

Fees . . . NNPS charges very modest fees for many benefits and services.

- There is a **professional development/processing fee of \$200 for each school and \$300 for each district, state, or organization**, which must accompany each membership form. Districts are advised to join **along with** an initial set of schools or with all schools in the district.
- NNPS members are invited to attend a **2-day fall Leadership Development Conference** in Baltimore to prepare for their work on partnerships and to continually improve their knowledge, leadership, skills, and programs. Members receive a discount on the registration fee for the two-day conference. New district leaders are invited to attend a **District Leadership Institute (DLI)** to prepare for their work. The DLI is offered each spring.
- There is an annual renewal fee of \$200 per school and \$300 per district or state to continue membership benefits and services from year to year. **NNPS pays this fee for all members that return the annual UPDATE survey at the end of each school year.**

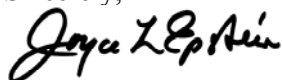
Benefits . . . The National Network of Partnership Schools offers many benefits and services to help members increase their knowledge and develop skills in developing effective programs of partnerships for student success. These are provided at no cost, as part of membership, except for conferences, as noted. To assist and guide your work, NNPS offers the following benefits:

- A **comprehensive handbook**. *School, Family, and Community Partnerships: Your Handbook for Action, Second Edition* includes summaries of research, guidelines for workshops on partnerships, presentation overheads, an inventory of starting points, planning and evaluation forms, and other tools to help develop and strengthen your partnership program.
- A **certificate of membership**. This recognizes your commitment to developing a goal-oriented program of school, family, and community partnerships.
- Annual **Leadership Development Conference**. Sessions prepare new members to establish their partnership programs and help experienced members improve their knowledge and skills. The 2-day conference includes step-by-step training in how to use the *Handbook* and conduct team-training, and advanced workshops on several topics, including the Teachers Involve Parents in Schoolwork (TIPS) interactive homework process. An intensive **District Leadership Institute for new district leaders** who will directly facilitate schools on partnerships is conducted each spring.
- **Type 2, the Network's semi-annual newsletter**. This informative newsletter (see archived issues on the website in the section Publications and Products) includes research summaries, examples of good practices, and guidelines for continuous progress in partnership program development. *Type 2* is e-mailed to all NNPS Key Contacts and may be copied and distributed to team members and other colleagues.
- **Promising Partnership Practices**. This annual book spotlights activities from schools, districts, states, and organizations in NNPS. Earlier editions are on the NNPS website in Success Stories.
- **On-call consultations with NNPS staff**. NNPS members may ask questions or request information about partnership program development from NNPS staff by phone, e-mail, and website.
- An interactive **website** – www.partnershipschools.org. The NNPS website is chock full of information on partnerships; research summaries; examples of best practices in elementary, middle, and high schools, districts, states, and organizations; and more.
- Annual **research and evaluation opportunities**. The annual *UPDATE* survey, required for renewal of membership, enables members to assess their progress each year. NNPS provides summaries of *UPDATE* data from schools and districts for members to compare their work with the network as a whole. Members may be invited to participate in projects to learn about the processes and results of partnerships. *UPDATE*, renewal certificates, and data reports are e-mailed each year.
- Annual **Partnership Awards**. NNPS recognizes schools, districts, states, and organizations that demonstrate excellence in implementing and improving their programs of school, family, and community partnerships for two or more years.
- **Other tools, materials, and programs**. NNPS designs and develops new guidelines and training activities each year to assist you with your work on school, family, and community partnerships.

Why should you join? NNPS will help your school, district, state, or organization become a national leader in connecting school, family, and community partnerships to school improvement goals. NNPS's research-based approaches help create a welcoming school environment, strengthen families, and increase student success in school. These approaches enable schools, LEAs, and SEAs to meet the requirements for family involvement in the *No Child Left Behind* act (NCLB). In NNPS, members network with each other to learn about and share successful partnership practices.

NNPS has learned that it takes at least three years to create and sustain a well-planned, goal-oriented partnership program. If you wish to make a commitment to improve family and community involvement, download and return the correct **Membership Form** (for school, district, state, or organization) to NNPS. My staff and I look forward to working with you on this important agenda to increase student success.

Sincerely,



Joyce L. Epstein, Ph.D.
Director and Principal Research Scientist



Working Together for Student Success

Membership Form for ORGANIZATIONS

Please complete and return this form to register your organization* as a member of the National Network of Partnership Schools (NNPS) at Johns Hopkins University. After NNPS receives this form, the Key Contact will be sent a handbook and other information on how to help schools and school districts plan and implement effective programs of school, family, and community partnerships.

Name of Organization: _____
Please write name exactly as it should appear on the NNPS Certificate of Membership.

Name of Key Contact to the National Network of Partnership Schools:

Position: _____

Mailing Address: _____

Telephone: (____) _____ **Fax:** (____) _____

E-mail address: _____ **Website:** _____

ABOUT YOUR ORGANIZATION

How does your organization work with schools and/or districts on school, family, and community partnerships? Check (✓) one, or briefly describe your work.

- Our work is most like a state department of education.**
 We conduct state or regional conferences and workshops; assist many district leaders to learn about school, family, and community partnerships; respond to requests for information on partnerships statewide; and conduct other leadership activities on partnerships for large numbers of schools and/or districts in the state.
- Our work is most like a school district.**
 We assist individual schools; conduct training workshops for school leaders and teams of teachers, parents, administrators, and community members; conduct school site visits; and assist schools' Action Teams for Partnerships in other ways.
- Our work on partnerships is different from the work of states or districts.**
 (Please describe briefly) _____

How long has your organization been working with schools and districts or other educators on school, family, and community partnerships? _____

Does your ORGANIZATION have a formal written policy about involving families? **YES*** **NO**
 * If YES, please attach a copy of the policy to this form.

*Note: "Organization" refers to a PIRC, regional education office, university project, or other group that works with districts and/or schools on developing strong programs of school, family, and community partnerships, and that wants to help districts and/or schools join NNPS and use research-based approaches in practice.

FOUR REQUIREMENTS FOR MEMBERSHIP

To join the National Network of Partnership Schools, an organization must be able to meet four membership requirements. NNPS will guide your organization in completing these requirements.

THIS ORGANIZATION WILL . . .

Check YES or NO

1. **Identify the staff leader(s) who will conduct the organization's program of school, family, and community partnerships.** YES NO
The leader(s) will serve as Key Contact(s) to the NNPS. They will write an annual plan or implement a funded proposal outlining activities to guide districts and/or schools in developing their partnership programs.
2. **Allocate an annual budget for salaries and program costs for the organization's work with schools/districts on partnerships.** YES NO
Funds may come from federal, state, and local programs that mandate or support family and community involvement, including Title I, or from specific grants for partnership projects.
3. **Complete an annual UPDATE survey to renew membership in the National Network of Partnership Schools.** YES NO
The organization must complete UPDATE, a progress report for the National Network of Partnership Schools to identify challenges faced and progress made each year. By returning UPDATE, the organization renews membership in NNPS and continues to receive benefits and services.
Note: NNPS waives the annual renewal fee of \$300 for all organizations that return UPDATE.
4. **Help each participating school or district meet the requirements of the National Network of Partnership Schools.** YES NO
Schools in the National Network of Partnership Schools are required to create an Action Team for Partnerships; use the framework of six types of involvement to plan their partnership programs; identify a budget for partnership activities; allocate time for team meetings; and complete an annual UPDATE survey. See the NNPS School Membership Form for details.
Districts in the National Network of Partnership Schools are required to support FTE facilitators to assist from 15-30 schools; allocate a district-level budget to support staff and activities; complete an annual UPDATE survey; and assist schools to strengthen and sustain effective programs of partnership. See the NNPS District Membership Form for details.

**If you cannot answer YES to these four requirements,
please postpone returning this form until these conditions can be met.**

How did you learn about the National Network of Partnership Schools?

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> In an article or book | <input type="checkbox"/> On the Internet (www.partnershipschools.org) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> At a conference or workshop | <input type="checkbox"/> From a state or district leader |
| <input type="checkbox"/> From a colleague | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (describe) _____ |

Why is your organization joining the National Network? Please check (✓) the top THREE reasons.

This organization wants to help schools and/or districts improve . . .

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Knowledge, plans, and actions on partnerships | <input type="checkbox"/> Student attendance |
| <input type="checkbox"/> How to link partnerships to specific school goals | <input type="checkbox"/> Student academic test scores and grades |
| <input type="checkbox"/> How families are involved in decisions | <input type="checkbox"/> Homework completion |
| <input type="checkbox"/> The number of families involved at each school | <input type="checkbox"/> Student behavior and discipline |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other main goal (describe) _____ | |

ABOUT THE SCHOOLS AND/OR DISTRICTS THAT YOUR ORGANIZATION WILL ASSIST

About how many schools and/or districts will your organization work with in the next school year?

In the next school year: ____ elementary schs ____ middle schs ____ high schs ____ districts
 ____ other (please describe) _____

Please fill in the numbers to show how your staff will facilitate these schools and/or districts.

In the next school year: _____ FTE facilitator(s) will work with these schools and districts.

Does your organization provide any funds or grants to schools and/or districts for their partnership programs? NO YES If YES, indicate the average grant or funds per site: \$ _____

Does your organization charge fees to schools or districts for your services on partnerships?

NO YES If YES, indicate the average fee: \$ _____ per school \$ _____ per district

PLEASE GIVE YOUR BEST ESTIMATES:

In the schools and/or districts that your organization will assist with partnerships in the next school year...

Percent of students who are:

____% African American ____% American Indian ____% Asian American
 ____% Latino/Hispanic American ____% White ____% Other

Percent of the families who speak a language other than English at home: ____%

Percent of children receiving free or reduced-price lunch: ____%

Special features of schools and/or districts you will work with (check all that apply):

- Public Private Religious Urban Suburban Rural
 Title I school-wide programs Charter Schools Schools that serve military families
 Other special features (describe) _____
-
-

QUALITY OF FAMILY AND COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

How would you rate the present quality of partnership programs, on average, in the schools and districts with which your organization will work? Check (✓) one on each line.

AT THIS TIME . . .	Excellent	Good	Fair	Weak	N/A or Don't Know
Quality of family and community involvement plans and activities in most schools with which you work	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Quality of family and community involvement plans and activities in most districts with which you work	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Quality of school and district connections with communities	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
School leaders' commitment to improve partnership programs	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
District leaders' commitment to improve partnership programs	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Quality of your organization's communications with other state and district leaders who work on partnerships	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Think ahead three years. How might your organization's leadership and activities on partnerships be different from today? Give two examples how your organization wants to change and improve its work with schools and districts on family and community involvement over the next three years.

APPROVAL AND SUPPORT BY DIRECTOR OR SUPERVISOR (REQUIRED)

I have reviewed and discussed this membership form with the Key Contact named above. As a member of the National Network of Partnership Schools (NNPS), this organization will help schools and/or districts in our project(s) to develop and maintain strong programs of school, family, and community partnerships.

Director/Supervisor's Signature

Director/Supervisor's Name (please print)

Date

MEMBERSHIP FORM and PAYMENT

The processing fee for an organization to join the National Network of Partnership Schools is \$300.

Upon receipt of this organization's membership form, the Key Contact to NNPS will receive a comprehensive handbook; monthly e-briefs from an NNPS Facilitator; information on training workshops; on-call consultations with NNPS by telephone, e-mail, and website; annual collections of best practices; and other benefits and services.

Method of payment:

Check Make check for \$300 payable to Johns Hopkins University. Mail check with this form.

Purchase Order Include a hard copy. PO # _____ Vendor: Johns Hopkins University

If you have any questions, please call Marsha D. Greenfeld at 410-516-4193.

Mail this membership form and payment to:

Dr. Joyce L. Epstein
Director, National Network of Partnership Schools
Center on School, Family, and Community Partnerships
Johns Hopkins University
3003 N. Charles Street, Suite 200
Baltimore, MD 21218

OR, FAX all 4 pages of this membership form with copy of the Purchase Order to 410-516-8890.

PLEASE KEEP A COPY OF THIS FORM FOR YOUR RECORDS.

THANK YOU!