



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.**

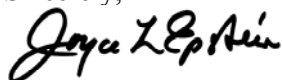
Benefits . . . The National Network of Partnership Schools offers many benefits and services to help members increase their knowledge and develop skills in developing effective programs of partnerships for student success. These are provided at no cost, as part of membership, except for conferences, 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 SCHOOLS

Please complete and return this form to register your school 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 to help your school organize and strengthen its program of school, family, and community partnerships.

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

Name of Action Team Leader/Key Contact to NNPS: _____

Position: _____

School Mailing Address: _____

School Telephone: (____) _____ Fax: (____) _____

E-mail address: _____ Website: _____

Name of Your School District: _____

ABOUT YOUR SCHOOL

Grade levels: _____ Number of students: _____ Number of teachers: _____

PLEASE ESTIMATE:

Percent of students in your school who are:

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

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

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

In what area is your school located? Large Urban Small Urban Suburban Rural

Does your school serve children whose families are in the military? YES NO NOT SURE

Does your school receive Title I funds? YES NO

If YES, is it a school-wide program? YES NO

Check ALL that apply to your school: Public Private Religious Affiliation

Magnet Charter City-wide Other feature: _____

Is your school part of any other major school improvement program or model? YES NO

If YES, which one(s)? _____

FIVE REQUIREMENTS FOR MEMBERSHIP

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

THIS SCHOOL WILL ...

Check YES or NO

- | | |
|---|--|
| <p>1. Create or identify an Action Team for Partnerships.
The Action Team for Partnerships (ATP) works as the “action arm” of the School Council to plan, implement, evaluate, and continually improve family and community involvement. An ATP consists of teachers, parents, an administrator, community members, other school staff, and, at the high school level, students.</p> | <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO |
| <p>2. Use the framework of six types of involvement to plan a partnership program.
The framework of six types of involvement helps a school’s Action Team for Partnerships (ATP) write a comprehensive partnership plan with activities for parenting, communicating, volunteering, learning at home, decision making, and collaborating with the community.</p> | <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO |
| <p>3. Allocate an annual budget for family and community involvement activities.
A modest budget is needed for the activities planned each year. Funds may come from federal, state, and local programs that mandate or support family and community involvement, including Title I.</p> | <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO |
| <p>4. Allocate time for an initial one-day team training workshop, and at least one hour per month for the Action Team for Partnerships to meet to plan, coordinate, and evaluate activities.
An ATP needs sufficient time and collegial support to do its work. The principal and district leaders support partnership work by allowing time for team members to meet, plan, conduct, and evaluate the activities that are selected for each type of involvement.</p> | <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO |
| <p>5. Complete an annual UPDATE survey to report progress and to renew school membership in the National Network of Partnership Schools.
The school must complete UPDATE, a progress report for the National Network of Partnership Schools, to identify challenges faced and progress made each school year. By returning UPDATE, a school renews membership in NNPS and continues to receive benefits and services. Note: NNPS waives the annual renewal fee of \$200 for all schools that return UPDATE.</p> | <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO |

**If you cannot answer YES to these five 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 district leader |
| <input type="checkbox"/> From a colleague | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (describe) _____ |

Why is your school joining the National Network? Please check the top THREE reasons.

We want to improve:

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> The number of families involved | <input type="checkbox"/> Student academic test scores and grades |
| <input type="checkbox"/> School climate and sense of community | <input type="checkbox"/> Homework completion |
| <input type="checkbox"/> School safety | <input type="checkbox"/> Student attendance |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Parent satisfaction with the school | <input type="checkbox"/> Student behavior and discipline |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other main goal (describe) _____ | |
-
-

Please help us understand where your school is starting from in its work on partnerships.

POLICIES ON PARTNERSHIPS

Check (✓) one on each line.

Does your SCHOOL have a formal written policy about involving families?

YES NO Don't Know

*

*If YES, please attach a copy of the school policy to this form.

Does your DISTRICT have a formal written policy about involving families?

Does your STATE have a formal written policy about involving families?

Does your school have a School Council or similar decision-making unit?

If YES, do parents serve on that unit?

Does your school have a formal team or group that plans, implements, and evaluates activities for family and community involvement?

If YES, what is that team or group called? _____

FAMILY AND COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT ACTIVITIES

How well does your school implement the following activities? Check (✓) one on each line.

ACTIVITY	Already Very Strong	Need to Improve	We Do Not Do This Yet
Conduct workshops on parenting topics to help all families understand their children or adolescents	_____	_____	_____
Conduct parent-teacher conferences with all families at least once a year	_____	_____	_____
Recruit and train parents and other volunteers to help at the school and in other locations	_____	_____	_____
Provide information from teachers to all students' families about how to monitor and help on homework	_____	_____	_____
Support an active parent association (e.g., PTA, PTO)	_____	_____	_____
Provide all families with information on community resources and services to help them and their children	_____	_____	_____
Work with business partners and the community to improve the school in important ways	_____	_____	_____
Create a welcoming school environment to encourage all families to become involved	_____	_____	_____
Link family and community involvement activities to specific learning goals for students (e.g., improving reading, math, attendance, behavior)	_____	_____	_____

DISTRICT AND STATE ASSISTANCE ON PARTNERSHIPS

Please (✓) if your district, state, or neither conducts the following activities with your school:

	District	State	Neither
Staff development or workshops specifically on partnerships	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Small grants for projects to improve partnerships	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Dissemination of information on effective practices of family and community involvement	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Recognition and/or rewards for good partnerships	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Newsletters or surveys for all families on school matters	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other district or state assistance on partnerships (please describe)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Think ahead three years. How might your school's partnership program be different from today? Give two examples how your school wants to change and improve its program of family and community involvement over the next three years.

APPROVAL AND SUPPORT BY PRINCIPAL (REQUIRED)

I have reviewed and discussed this membership form with the Key Contact. I will support the school's work with the National Network of Partnership Schools (NNPS) at Johns Hopkins University, and will support the plans and activities of our Action Team for Partnerships.

Principal's Signature

Principal's Name (please print)

Date

MEMBERSHIP FORM and PAYMENT

The processing fee for a school to join the National Network of Partnership Schools is \$200.

Upon receipt of this school's membership form, the Key Contact to NNPS will receive a comprehensive handbook; certificate of membership; poster of six types of involvement; 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 \$200 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 Darcy Hutchins at 410-516-8893.

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 MEMBERSHIP FORM FOR YOUR RECORDS.

THANK YOU!