

# One-Year Plan Support for ATPs

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*Pasco School District No. 1*

*Pasco, Washington*

One e-mail attachment cleared up a whole lot of confusion for members of Pasco School District's Action Teams for Partnership (ATPs) last fall. As part of their One-Year Plan Support for schools' ATPs, district leaders sent all school teams a short document outlining the basic elements of a solid One-Year Action Plan for Partnerships.

District leaders recognized that the schools' ATPs needed additional support last fall when they reviewed the schools' action plans. Although they had been NNPS members for 3 years, some plans needed a little TLC. District facilitators realized that they had not spent sufficient time in this past year's training on educating ATP members about what a good Action Plan for Partnerships includes.

District-level leaders remembered an exercise they participated in at a recent NNPS conference. Building on that, they constructed a short, clear, friendly set of guidelines to e-mail to all of their ATP chairs. They also began editing the school's plans that had been submitted and requested improvements and clarifications from some action teams.

The e-mail notified chairs of needed changes and requested them to resubmit the action plans with any corrections, clarifications, or improvements by the beginning of December. The action plan guidelines, as well as each ATP's first draft of their own school's Action Plan for Partnerships were attached to the e-mail.

But district leaders didn't stop there—to prevent further confusion on next year's One-Year Action Plans for Partnerships, they urged all ATP chairs to submit a rough draft of the 08-09 plans by March of 2008. In years past, schools worked on their plans just before classes started, in the midst of beginning the new school year. By getting chairs to submit their drafts in the spring and have time to make revisions, as needed, district leaders hoped to

avoid confusion at the start of the new school year. Indeed, this is the schedule that NNPS recommends for all ATPs and district leaders.

Just about all of the 16 schools submitted their revised and improved versions of their 07-08 plans by December. Even better, all schools got their 08-09 plans in to the district facilitators by the March deadline. The new plans were even stronger than the year before.

ATP chairs from across the district appreciated the clarifications, guidelines, and suggestions from the district facilitators. "We worked on our action plan in separate committees. It was great to simply be able to make copies of this tool and provide it to each committee," one ATP chair said.

"It was very useful as a new co-chair... also new to the ATP. I was not familiar with the One-Year Action Plan and so the tool from our district leaders was very handy, because I was able to follow the steps," another co-chair noted.

District leaders for partnerships will continue this practice in the future. At their summer ATP training session, they will take time for ATPs to correct or strengthen the final version of their One-Year Action Plans for Partnerships. Facilitators also plan to guide ATPs to share their schools' action plans with parents, students, staff members, and other stakeholders.

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