NNPS invites applications for the 2015 Partnership State Awards to recognize excellent programs of school, family, and community partnerships. YOUR OFFICE is eligible to apply IF it has been a member of NNPS for **two years or more** and can show that it is (a) developing strong leadership for family and community involvement and (b) directly communicating with districts and/or schools to encourage them to develop research-based, goal-oriented partnership programs, AND if you share some information about NNPS as a resource.

**Put your state in the spotlight!** Celebrate the hard work that you and your state, district, and school colleagues are doing to involve more families in ways that support student success! Help other state leaders see what can be done to promote more systematic work on partnership programs in districts and schools.

**TAKE THESE 3 STEPS!**

1. **Submit one** of your state’s best practices for review for *Promising Partnership Practices 2015*. Go to the NNPS website at [http://www.partnershipschools.org](http://www.partnershipschools.org). Click on Success Stories and Submit a Practice for states. Due by **May 15**.

   **NOTE:** You may use your state-level 2015 *Promising Partnership Practice* questionnaire as the response to either **Topic A** or **B** (below). **Make a copy** of the completed questionnaire. Label it *For Award Application: Topic A – State-Level Leadership for Partnerships OR - Topic B – Outreach to Districts and/or Schools to Improve their Partnership Programs* With this done, you have completed **one-half** of the award application!

   If you missed the deadline for *Promising Partnership Practices*, you still may apply for a **Partnership State Award**. Use the state questionnaire for **Topic A or B**.

2. See Topics **A and B** below. If you work with other colleagues in your office on partnerships, discuss the topics together. **Complete the award application and send it by mail OR E-mail to NNPS by June 30.** (Please keep a copy of all submissions for your records.)

   **A. STATE-LEVEL LEADERSHIP FOR PARTNERSHIPS**

   Describe one activity that your office conducted in the past two years that shows how your State Department of Education is strengthening its leadership on partnerships. **Identify** an activity or action that shows how you are:

   - increasing awareness of your office’s work on partnerships;
   - aligning your office’s work on partnerships with state policy;
   - working with colleagues from other departments or other state-level organizations;
   - documenting progress or evaluating the quality of state, district, and school partnership programs.

   **Include** information on changes that occurred over the past year **because of** your office’s work on partnerships.

   **NOTE:**

   - Your office may not yet excel on all aspects of state-level leadership for partnerships, but you must show how you are **making progress** on the activity you describe.
   - Limit the description to **2-3 double-spaced typed pages** – no more than **750 words**.
   - Include 1 or 2 attachments (maximum) (e.g., flyers, policies, agendas, videos, photos, or other relevant material) to document how the activity was planned, publicized, implemented, and/or evaluated.

   (over)
B. ENCOURAGE DISTRICTS and SCHOOLS TO IMPROVE THEIR PARTNERSHIP PROGRAMS

Describe ONE activity that your office conducted in the past two years to directly communicate with districts and/or schools to encourage them to strengthen their programs of family and community involvement.

Select an activity or action that shows how your office is providing professional development workshops, training, or other support to:

- help districts and/or schools improve research-based goal-oriented programs of partnership
- share knowledge of best practices and successes
- document progress or evaluate the quality of their partnership programs.

NOTE:
- Your office may not be able to endorse one approach to partnership program development, but you must be able to show that you offered information to districts and/or schools about NNPS as a resource that they may use, if they wish, to help develop their programs of family and community involvement.
- Limit the description to 2-3 double-spaced typed pages – no more than 750 words.
- Include 1 or 2 attachments (maximum) (e.g., flyers, policies, agendas, videos, photos, or other materials) to document how the activity was planned, publicized, implemented, and/or evaluated.

3. COMPLETE AND SUBMIT THE APPLICATION

Create a COVER PAGE for the 2015 Partnership State Award application. List:

1. Name of State Dept of Education
2. Key Contact to NNPS
3. Mailing address
4. Phone
5. Fax
6. E-mail address
7. Your Office’s Website
8. State Superintendent
9. Summer contact
10. Summer contact’s phone and E-mail

APPLICATION CHECKLIST

SEE THE REQUIRED ATTACHMENT

Check ✓ and submit ALL of the following to NNPS by mail or as E-mail attachments

☐ Cover page with the 10 items of information listed above.

Responses to Topics A and B. Label one Promising Partnership Practices questionnaire for EITHER topic A or B. Label the other narrative. Give activity A and activity B clear titles.

☐ REQUIRED ATTACHMENT. Copy of your office’s leadership plan for partnerships for 14-15 (THIS) school year. The state leader’s written plan or schedule for work on partnerships may be on an NNPS or locally developed form.

☐ Optional attachments for Topic A and B (2 each/maximum).

Submit ALL items by JUNE 30, 2015 by mail OR E-mail to:

Dr. Joyce L. Epstein and Awards Committee
National Network of Partnership Schools
Johns Hopkins University
2701 N. Charles Street, Suite 300
Baltimore, MD 21218

OR

E-Mail Word files and attachments or .pdf documents to nnps@jhu.edu.

Check for a confirmation from NNPS that the E-mailed application and attachments were received.