

National Network of Partnership Schools at Johns Hopkins University

Joyce L. Epstein, Director

Educators and families agree that school, family, and community partnerships are essential for children's success in school.

Based on more than three decades of research and the work of many educators, parents, students, and others, we know that it is possible for all elementary, middle, and high schools to develop and sustain strong programs of partnerships that help students succeed.

Districts and states can establish policies and take leadership to help all schools develop excellent programs of partnerships.

As a member of the National Network of Partnership Schools (NNPS), you will be guided, supported, and recognized in your efforts to maintain goal-oriented school, family, and community connections.

What is the National Network of Partnership Schools?

Established at Johns Hopkins University in 1996, the National Network of Partnership Schools (NNPS) assists schools, districts, states, and organizations that are committed to developing strong programs of school, family, and community partnerships. Each Partnership School strengthens its program with an Action Team for Partnerships, a framework of six types of involvement to engage parents in different ways, and a written action plan for goal-oriented family and community involvement linked to the school improvement plan. District, state, and other leaders assist schools to develop, evaluate, and continually improve their partnership programs.

Why Become a Member of the National Network?

- ★ Comprehensive handbook to guide partnership program development
- ★ Certificate of membership
- ★ Invitations to attend leadership and development conferences
- ★ Type 2, NNPS Newsletter
- ★ Annual collection, *Promising Partnership Practices*
- ★ Colorful posters of six "keys" to successful partnerships
- ★ Technical assistance by phone, e-mail, and website
- ★ Opportunities to participate in research and evaluation projects
- ★ Other benefits and experiences

Members benefit from the experience of the NNPS staff and by sharing ideas with other schools, districts, and states working to increase and improve partnerships. In every issue of the NNPS newsletter, at workshops, and on the NNPS website, members share creative solutions for improving family and community involvement.

Who May Join the National Network of Partnership Schools?

Membership is open to all schools, districts, states, and organizations that agree to the requirements listed on the following page.



Membership Requirements

Members work with NNPS to improve connections with students, families, and communities. Schools, districts, and states must meet a few requirements.

Developing good connections of home, school, and community is an on-going process that takes time, organization, and effort.

NNPS offers a research-based framework, tools, and strategies that enable all schools, districts, and states to organize school, family, and community partnerships to improve schools, strengthen families, and increase student success.

Organization and university partners are welcome to join NNPS to assist schools and districts in their regions.

To join NNPS, there is a \$200 processing fee for schools; \$300 for districts, states, and organizations.

Annual renewal fees are waived for all members that return the annual UPDATE survey.

At the SCHOOL LEVEL, each Partnership School will:

- ✓ Create an Action Team for Partnerships.
- ✓ Use the framework of six types of involvement to plan and implement a goal-oriented program of partnerships linked to school improvement plans.
- ✓ Allocate an annual budget for the work and activities of the school's Action Team for Partnerships.
- ✓ Allocate time for an initial One-Day Team-Training Workshop and at least one hour per month for the Action Team Partnerships to meet to plan and evaluate activities.

At the DISTRICT LEVEL, each Partnership District will:

- ✓ Assign the equivalent of one full-time facilitator to assist 15 to 30 schools to create their Action Teams for Partnerships. Part-time coordinators may work in districts with fewer than 15 schools.
- ✓ Allocate an annual budget for the district facilitator's salary and activities to develop, strengthen, and maintain partnership programs in all schools.
- ✓ Assist each participating school to fulfill the requirements listed above for the school level.

At the STATE LEVEL, each Partnership State will:

- ✓ Create or identify an Office or Department for School, Family, and Community Partnerships.
- ✓ Assign the equivalent of one full-time coordinator and adequate staff to conduct state-wide leadership activities or school, family, and community partnerships.
- ✓ Allocate an annual budget for the work of this office and for the activities to support districts and schools to develop excellent partnership programs.
- ✓ Assist districts and schools to fulfill the membership requirements listed above.

ALL MEMBERS will:

- ✓ Complete an annual UPDATE survey to report progress and to renew membership in NNPS.

If your school, district, state, or organization is ready to develop strong programs of school, family, and community partnerships for student success, you are invited to join the National Network of Partnership Schools (NNPS).

For more information and membership forms visit www.partnershipschools.org and the section Join NNPS.

Or contact us at NNPS, Johns Hopkins University, 3003 N. Charles Street, Suite 200, Baltimore, MD 21218
E-mail: nnps@csos.jhu.edu Tel: 410-516-2318 Fax: 410-516-8890

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Welcome National Network of Partnership Schools! Working Together for Student Success

Established at Johns Hopkins University in 1996, NNPS invites schools, districts, states, and organizations to join together and use research-based approaches to organize and sustain excellent programs of family and community involvement that will increase student success in school.

"Based on more than three decades of research on parental involvement, family engagement, and community partnerships, NNPS's tools, guidelines, and action team approach may be used by all elementary, middle, and high schools to increase involvement and improve student learning and development," explains Dr. Joyce L. Epstein, Founder and Director of NNPS. NNPS also guides district leaders to help their schools develop goal-oriented programs of family involvement and community connections, and to meet NCLB requirements for parent involvement. In addition, NNPS assists state departments of education and organizations to develop policies and take actions that will support districts and schools in strengthening their partnership programs.

Researchers and facilitators at the Center on School, Family, and Community Partnerships at Johns Hopkins University work with the members of NNPS to study the nature and results of involvement. NNPS aims to increase knowledge of new concepts and strategies; use research results to develop tools and materials that will improve policy and practice; provide professional development conferences and workshops; share best practices of parental involvement and community connections; and recognize excellent partnership programs at the school, district, organization, and state levels.

This website provides NNPS members with updated information, research results, and ideas for action from the NNPS staff and members across the country. The site also informs prospective members about NNPS approaches, benefits, and services.

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Member Benefits & Services

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To assist members with their work, NNPS provides:

One copy of *School, Family, and Community Partnerships: Your Handbook for Action, Third Edition* which includes research summaries, tools, and guidelines for developing effective partnership programs.

Certificate of membership.

Semi-annual newsletter, *Type 2*, which provides examples of best practices, solutions to challenges, and guidelines for continuous progress on partnerships.

Annual collection of *Promising Partnership Practices*, with good ideas for improving goal-oriented activities of family and community involvement.

Monthly e-briefs from NNPS Facilitators.

Technical assistance "on call" by phone and e-mail (nnps@jhu.edu) from NNPS Facilitators.

Professional development conferences and training institutes in Baltimore. Discounts on registration for NNPS members.

Web-based conferences on strategies for program development.

Posters of the six types of involvement in English and Spanish.

Annual *UPDATE* survey to evaluate progress, assess challenges, and renew membership in NNPS for the next school year.

Annual summaries of *UPDATE* data from schools and districts in NNPS; and customized summaries of *UPDATE* data for districts with 8 schools or more in NNPS.

Website with program guidelines, research results, best practices from NNPS members.

Networking opportunities to learn about effective partnership practices from other schools, districts, states, and organizations.

Tools and training linked to NCLB, Sec. 1118 requirements for family involvement.

New research results, reports, tools, and materials as they are developed.

NNPS Incentive Items for ATP members and others who support school, family, and community partnerships.

Contract services for on-site basic training, advanced workshops, and conference events.

[Membership forms](#)

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Membership Requirements

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The National Network of Partnership Schools invites schools, districts, state departments of education, and organizations to become members. Each level of membership has different requirements. Please select one of the following to view the requirements most appropriate for your interests.

School Level

To join the National Network of Partnership Schools (NNPS), each school must agree to fulfill the following requirements for developing a research-based, goal-oriented program of school, family, and community partnerships.

Create or identify an [Action Team for Partnerships](#) (ATP) including educators, parents, and community members.

Write an annual [One-Year Action Plan for Partnerships](#) linked to school improvement goals.

Use the framework of [Six Types of Involvement](#) to select family and community involvement activities that create a welcoming climate of partnerships and contribute to student learning and development.

Allocate an annual budget for the activities in the annual plan for partnerships.

Allocate time for an initial One-Day Team Training Workshop, and at least one hour per month for the ATP to meet, plan, coordinate, and evaluate activities

Complete an annual [UPDATE](#) survey to evaluate progress and to renew school membership in NNPS for the next school year.

Send \$400 to join NNPS for professional development on partnerships, and to receive the Handbook and other [benefits and services](#).

The annual renewal fee for schools is \$200.

[Invitation to join NNPS and School Membership Form.](#)

District Level

To join the National Network of Partnership Schools (NNPS), district members must agree to fulfill the following requirements as they develop district leadership and school-based programs of school, family, and community partnerships.

Assign the equivalent of one full-time facilitator or coordinator (1 FTE) to work with [Action Team for Partnerships](#) (ATP) in 15 to 30 schools. Districts with fewer than 15 participating schools may propose a part-time equivalent facilitator.

Write an annual Leadership Plan for Partnerships. NNPS provides templates for district plans and an inventory, Lead and Succeed, to help district leaders organize their work at the district level and with all schools.

Help each participating school join NNPS and meet the SCHOOL LEVEL requirements of membership.

With guidance from NNPS, district leaders will provide training on partnerships for school ATPs and help ATPs write action plans, encourage implementation, share best practices, promote evaluations, and connect schools with NNPS.

Allocate an annual budget for staff salaries and program activities in the Leadership Plan for Partnerships.

Complete an annual [UPDATE](#) survey to evaluate progress and to renew district membership in NNPS for the next school year.

Create or identify an Office, Department, or Program of School, Family, and Community Partnerships. (Required of large districts with more than 30 schools.)

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Send \$400 to join NNPS for professional development on partnerships and to receive the Handbook and other [benefits and services](#).

The annual renewal fee for districts is \$200.

[Invitation to join NNPS and District Membership Form](#)

State Level

To join the National Network of Partnership Schools (NNPS), State Departments of Education must agree to fulfill the following requirements as they develop statewide leadership and programs of school, family, and community partnerships.

Create or identify an Office (e.g., Department, Division, Bureau, or Program) for School, Family, and Community Partnerships.

Assign the equivalent of one full-time Director or Coordinator and adequate staff to conduct statewide leadership activities for school, family, and community partnerships.

Write an annual Leadership Plan for Partnerships with clear goals, objectives, and activities to encourage districts and schools in the state to strengthen their programs of school, family, and community partnerships.

NNPS provides templates for state plans for partnerships. The inventory, *Lead and Succeed*, may help state leaders select activities to encourage work on partnerships by districts and schools. States may provide information to districts and schools about NNPS resources that will help them develop their partnership programs.

Allocate an annual budget for staff salaries and program activities in the Leadership Plan for Partnerships.

Complete an annual [UPDATE](#) survey to evaluate progress and to renew state membership in NNPS for the next school year.

Send \$400 to join NNPS for professional development on partnerships and to receive the Handbook and other [benefits and services](#).

The annual renewal fee for states is \$200.

[Request an invitation to join NNPS and State Membership Form.](#)

Organization Level

To join the National Network of Partnership Schools (NNPS), organizations and university projects that assist states, districts, and/or schools to develop research-based partnership programs must agree to fulfill the following requirements.

Identify a leader for partnerships, necessary staff, and adequate time to work with school, district, and/or state partners.

Write an annual Leadership Plan for Partnerships with clear goals, objectives, and activities to encourage districts, schools, and/or states in the area or project strengthen their programs of school, family, and community partnerships. NNPS provides templates for plans for partnerships. The inventory, *Lead and Succeed*, could help organizational leaders plan their work on partnerships with districts and with schools.

Help the districts, schools, and/or states in the area join the NNPS and meet NNPS requirements for membership.

Allocate an adequate budget for staff salaries and program activities in the Leadership Plan for Partnerships.

Complete an annual [UPDATE](#) survey to evaluate progress and to renew organization membership in NNPS for the next school year.

Send \$400 to join NNPS for professional development on partnerships and to receive the Handbook and other [benefits and services](#).

The annual renewal fee for states is \$200.

[Invitation to join NNPS and Organization Membership Form.](#)

NOTE: Some organizations that join NNPS work “like a district.” They should examine District Membership Requirements. Other organizations work “like a state.” They should examine State Membership Requirements.

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Handbook for Action



Ten chapters offer step-by-step strategies to improve leadership and programs of school, family, and community connections. [Learn more!](#)