

# National Network of Partnership Schools at Johns Hopkins University

Joyce L. Epstein, Ph.D., 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 improve and 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 school 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.



NATIONAL NETWORK OF  
**Partnership Schools**  
JOHNS HOPKINS UNIVERSITY

# Membership 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.*

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

## 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 for 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 programs of partnership 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.

## ALL MEMBERS will:

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

**To join NNPS, there is a \$400 processing fee for schools, districts, states, and organizations.**  
Annual renewal fees of \$200 are sent with an *end-of-school year UPDATE SURVEY* to evaluate progress.

**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](http://www.partnershipschools.org) and the section Join NNPS.**

**Or contact us at NNPS, Johns Hopkins University, 2701 N. Charles Street, Suite 300, Baltimore, MD 21218  
E-mail: [nnps@jhu.edu](mailto:nnps@jhu.edu) Tel: 410-516-2318 Fax: 410-516-8890**

**Visit us at [www.partnershipschools.org](http://www.partnershipschools.org)**

## **Member Benefits and Services**

- 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. The book includes a CD with the NNPS PowerPoint for conducting workshops for Action Teams for Partnerships (ATPs), with materials and activities in English and Spanish.
- Certificate of membership.
- Website with program guidelines, research results, best practices from NNPS members.
- 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 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 and assess challenges. At the end of each school year, UPDATE is returned to NNPS with a \$200 renewal fee for data processing and to continue membership and benefits 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.
- Networking opportunities to learn about effective partnership practices from other schools, districts, states, and organizations.
- Tools and training linked to Title I requirements for parental involvement.
- New research results, reports, tools, and materials as they are developed.
- NNPS “Reward and Recognition” 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.

**For more information:**

**National Network of Partnership Schools  
Johns Hopkins University  
2701 N. Charles Street, Suite 300  
Baltimore, MD 21218**

**410-516-8800  
[nnps@jhu.edu](mailto:nnps@jhu.edu)**

**[www.partnershipschools.org](http://www.partnershipschools.org)**

No Child Left Behind

Meet the Staff

**NNPS MODEL**  
For Schools, Districts,  
States, & Organizations

Learn the components of research-based programs of school, family, and community partnerships in schools, districts, states, and organizations. See the School Model for the framework of six types of involvement, Action Team for Partnerships, and other features of successful programs of family and community involvement.

**Success Stories**

Explore over 700 activities from annual collections of *Promising Partnership Practices* submitted by school, district, state, and organization members of NNPS. Also, meet the winners of NNPS Partnership Awards and read about their excellent programs.

**Research &  
Evaluation**

Read summaries of past studies and new research on the nature and effects of family and community involvement. See a list of over 60 publications by Center researchers that provide the research base for NNPS's tools and guidelines for partnership program

**Professional  
Development**

Plan to attend an NNPS Leadership Development Conference, District Leadership Institute, or schedule other Professional Development Workshops to strengthen leadership and improve the quality of partnership programs and results.

**Publications &  
Products**

Order NNPS books, tools, surveys, and other resources to strengthen knowledge, skills, and programs of family and community involvement. Read archived editions of the NNPS newsletter, *Type 2*, and shop for NNPS incentives (posters, mugs, T-shirts, pens) to motivate teams and colleagues.

**TIPS Teachers Involve  
Parents in Schoolwork**

Learn how TIPS Interactive Homework in math, science, and language arts promotes connections of school and home for student success. Download examples of TIPS activities and see resources available.

Also, learn how to organize volunteers in the middle grades with TIPS Social Studies and Art Volunteers.

**JOIN NNPS**

Download a membership form for your school, district, state, or organization. Join others across the country who are using the NNPS Framework and research-based approaches to improve policies, programs, and practices of family and community involvement.