



## National Network of Partnership Schools (NNPS)

### 2022 April E-Brief for Districts, States, and Organizations



Spring is in the air,  
And learning is flowering everywhere!  
Teachers work with students to close the gap  
Caused by COVID-19 closures across the map.  
When schools and families work as a team  
Students increase achievement. That's everyone's dream.



## NNPS is celebrating its 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary!

NNPS is 25 years young! In *E-Brief* each month in the 2021-22 school year, we will celebrate a **Little Known NNPS Fact** to show how far we have come over the years because of leaders in schools, districts, organizations, and states—like YOU!

**Now You Know...** From its start in 1996, NNPS has worked with state, district, organization, and school leaders who want to use research-based strategies to improve programs of school, family, and community partnerships. We have learned how to help district leaders to facilitate Action Teams for Partnerships (APTs) in all schools—preschool, elementary, middle, and high schools—in any community. State leadership—which may involve hundreds of districts and thousands of schools—has been a challenge. That is—until the Ohio Statewide Family Engagement Center (OhSFEC) earned a grant to address this challenge.

Working with NNPS, OhSFEC has trained leaders in all 16 regions of the state to work with a set of districts and schools in urban, suburban, and rural areas to organize, implement, evaluate, and improve their programs of school, family, and

community partnerships. The key to success is what NNPS calls a “leadership ladder” that identifies clear responsibilities for leaders at each policy level. By making tasks feasible, state and regional leaders can focus on strengthening the capacities of district leaders to help all schools’ Action Teams for Partnerships to work well with their own students’ families.

Read the article in the April issue of *Phi Delta Kappan* to learn how OhSFEC and NNPS are testing a statewide model of partnerships across Ohio. This is, indeed, an NNPS “dream come true”—evidence that research-based structures and processes can be applied to fulfill official policies on partnerships and improve practice. (See the link in the Social Media section, below)

**Let us hear from you!** Why is important to *your* partnership program to know that state leaders can guide all districts and schools—not just one district or school here or there—to conduct effective and equitable programs of family and community engagement? Send a sentence or two to share your views to Rachel Chappell, NNPS Coordinator, at [nmps@jhu.edu](mailto:nmps@jhu.edu).

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## **CALL FOR PROMISING PARTNERSHIP PRACTICES 2022**

Did your school, district, state, or organization conduct a successful partnership practice in the 21-22 school year that everyone needs to hear about? YES, you did!

It is time to submit your best practice for NNPS’s *Promising Partnership Practices* 2022—the unique collection of members’ practices of school, family, and community partnerships. District, organization, and state leaders should meet with colleagues, and school ATPs should meet as a team to identify an exemplary activity that you conducted in the 21-22 school year.

Did your site welcome students and families back when school doors re-opened for face-to-face classes? Did your location conduct a creative online activity with families and students learning from home? Members of NNPS across the country learn from and want to hear about your best practice.

Click here [PPP Submission Questionnaire](#) to submit your best practice for the new E-Book of *Promising Partnership Practices*. Complete the first three pages of the questionnaire by **June 30, 2022** and e-mail these pages to **Brenda Thomas**, [bthomas@jhu.edu](mailto:bthomas@jhu.edu) or **Rachel Chappell**, [nmps@jhu.edu](mailto:nmps@jhu.edu).

If your activity is selected for publication, your location will receive a \$25 NNPS Certificate to apply to renew membership or to purchase NNPS materials.

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## **NNPS 2022 PARTNERSHIP AWARDS**

Submitting a *Promising Partnership Practice* is the first step to apply for an *NNPS 2022 Partnership Award*. If you have been an NNPS member for two (2) years or more and are implementing NNPS research-based strategies to organize your partnership program, your school ATP, district, organization, or state may complete the *Partnership Award* application—page 4 attached to the PPP questionnaire. Awardees are rewarded with one free renewal of membership in NNPS—a \$250 value!

Click here [\*\*NNPS Partnership Award\*\*](#) to apply for the award and continue to complete page 4 of the *PPP* Questionnaire. Complete all questions and submit all 4 pages and required information by **June 30, 2022**. Email the award application (along with the *PPP*) to **Brenda Thomas**, [bthomas@jhu.edu](mailto:bthomas@jhu.edu) or **Rachel Chappell**, [nmps@jhu.edu](mailto:nmps@jhu.edu).

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## TWO-WAY COMMUNICATIONS: Good Practices During COVID-19

This section of E-Brief reports what NNPS has learned from YOU about implementing family and community engagement activities during the COVID-19 crisis. This month's practices are from the NNPS E-Book—[\*\*Promising Partnership Practices 2021\*\*](#).

### School Activity

#### **Sip and Paint to Thank Essential Workers. McMillan Early Learning Center in Cleveland Heights, OH, Margie Jennings, Site Coordinator.**

This parent-and-student art experience was even more exciting as a virtual activity than when conducted at the school. The school's leaders included the community in the activity. Students and parents painted their “thank you” to appreciate their favorite essential workers in the community. Under COVID-19 conditions, preschool children faced unexpected social, emotional, cognitive, and physical challenges. The school wanted to understand and reduce student and family daily struggles, strengthen students’ thinking skills, coping mechanisms, social interactions, and—at the same time—have some fun with art. The artwork was delivered to the community helpers. A grocery store manager wrote back to the school: “Your students and families ... will never know just how much this really means to all of us. Just to know that our daily efforts have been recognized.” Read more about Sip and Paint on pp. 20 and 21 of *Promising Partnership Practices 2021*.

### District Activity

**Family and Community Engagement—FACE to Face. Tucson Unified School District (TUSD), AZ** aimed to help all schools conduct high-quality academic programs for students and ensure that all families received needed services during the pandemic. **Alma Iniguez and Lacey Grijalva, Director and Coordinator**, respectively, of the FACE office, which oversees the Family Centers, used the district communication system, Parent Vue, to send messages and a monthly newsletter to families. They maintained a live communication platform for parents to send their questions and concerns, and for the district to respond. District leaders, staff, and community partners were invited speakers in FACE-to-Face sessions for families to gain information and ask questions. Over 100 parents participated in various sessions during the year. All members of the FACE staff played important roles in the outreach activity including Family Center Liaisons and tech support and custodial staffs. During the COVID-19 year, FACE<sup>2453</sup> considered itself the district’s “heart department”—the place where the district

showed that it cared for all students and families in TUSD. Read more about FACE to Face on p. 52 *Promising Partnership Practices 2021*.

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## **COMING SOON! 2022 UPDATE - DUE JULY 15 Evaluate Progress and Renew Membership in NNPS for the 22-23 School Year**

This year, due to continuing COVID-19 restrictions, NNPS is giving all members time to assess progress and coordinate renewal payments. The due date for the 2022 UPDATE is **July 15**.

**Heads Up for 2022 UPDATE surveys and important dates:**

**May 3:** NNPS will send 2022 UPDATE by e-mail—E-ALERT—to all members that joined NNPS before November 2022. Fillable forms also will be posted on the NNPS website.

**June 30:** Submissions for Promising Partnership Practices 2022 and Partnership Awards are due.

**By July 15:** Members send UPDATE and renewal fee of \$250 to NNPS. Remember: NNPS pays a matching fee to cover costs so that your school, district, state, or organization will continue to receive NNPS books, communications, website, and facilitation services through the 2022-23 school year. We are your partners on partnerships!

**September:** The new e-book Promising Partnership Practices 2022 will be e-mailed to all members who complete the NNPS 2022 UPDATE and renew membership for the new school year.

**We look forward to receiving your 2022 UPDATE and renewal by or before JULY 15<sup>th</sup>.**

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### **Recap: NNPS Leadership Institute**

The NNPS spring live-online Leadership Institute was conducted March 17, 18, and 25. District, organization, state, and other leaders attended from 5 states. Attendees learned to implement effective and equitable partnership programs using research-based approaches in their own locations. They gained competencies and a certificate to conduct presentations on school, family, and community partnerships and the NNPS One-Day Team Training Workshop with their schools' Action Teams for Partnerships. They gained many ideas to take their leadership to the next level as experts on partnerships. Many "thank you" messages in the Chat Box told us that the attendees gained knowledge and skills to advance their leadership on partnerships and begin to "scale up" their partnership programs.

**Plan to attend the next NNPS Leadership Institute in OCTOBER.** If you were unable to attend in March, plan to join us for the next Leadership Institute in October (Date and Venue TBD). Brochure and registration information will be on the NNPS website soon: [www.partnershipschools.org](http://www.partnershipschools.org).

## NNPS Members-Only Access Code

The **MEMBERS-ONLY ACCESS CODE—NNPSmem22**—gives special benefits to active members of NNPS. On the website, [www.partnershipschools.org](http://www.partnershipschools.org), you can use the Code to explore many years' books of *Promising Partnership Practices* and all 18 *NNPS Samplers* of goal-linked partnership activities in the section Success Stories. We will remind you of the code in every month's *E-Brief*.

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## NNPS and SOCIAL MEDIA

### **Pasco School District #1 developed a One-Stop-Shop for school teams on family and community engagement.**

Leaders in Pasco School District #1 use their district website to connect all schools to their own “Pasco Network” and to NNPS. According to the district leaders for partnerships, a school-based ATP can make just one stop on the website to find district and NNPS materials and support for their work on family and community engagement.

1. On the Pasco School District's website section Students and Families, see [Family Resources](#) to explore Pasco resources and guidelines for all schools' Action Teams for Partnerships.
2. Check it out! See Pasco District #1 [Creates Awareness and Celebrates Milestones](#) :
  - **Pasco's Flow Chart** for submitting an activity for the NNPS book of *Promising Partnership Practices* and to apply for an *NNPS Partnership Award*.
  - **Pasco's timeline** celebrating all of its' district and school NNPS Award Winners from 2006 to the present

### **Article by Dr. Joyce Epstein, Director NNPS, and Dr. Barbara Boone, Director OhSFEC describe approaches to scale up good partnerships statewide**

The **Ohio Statewide Family Engagement Center (OhSFEC)** at The Ohio State University is testing the feasibility of the NNPS model of multilevel leadership (a “leadership ladder”). This approach defines the responsibilities of leaders at all policy levels so that their roles are clear and, ultimately, district leaders are able to *facilitate* all schools to organize, implement, evaluate, and continually improve their programs of family and community engagement.

Read the article by Epstein & Boone and see initial evidence of progress on statewide leadership for partnerships:

[Statewide Leadership for Partnerships- Epstein and Boone article in Kappan7](#)

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## **INFORMATION, OPPORTUNITIES AND RESOURCES**

**The Dollar General Literacy Foundation awards** grants to support literacy and education initiatives serving individuals of all ages. The Foundation funds

schools, libraries, and organizations that are within a 15-mile radius of a Dollar General store in their state. They support programs that help individuals take their next steps towards a bright future. Topics include youth literacy and summer reading. The grants can link to the goals in your program of school, family, and community partnerships.

NOTE: Grant applications for 2022 are closed, but look into this organization to learn about its deadline for funding in 2023.

[Dollar General Literacy Foundation \(dgliteracy.org\)](https://dgliteracy.org)

Also see **Dollar General's** activity kits with reading lists, puzzles, and games for students and families on themes such as Diversity, Courage, Adventures, Traditions, Family, and Friendship at [Resources: Books, Puzzles, Games - Elementary Grades](#)

**Home Depot** - Are you planning a Science Fair, or STEM or STEAM Night? The Home Depot has useful information to help you get started and guide you through your event. See [Science Fair Central](#) for information on rubrics to judge projects, tips for engaging parents, and activities for students and families to complete together.

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## DONATE TO NNPS

When you are making your tax-deductible donations to non-profit organizations, please consider NNPS. Your donation supports NNPS's unique projects—books of *Promising Partnership Practices*, *Partnership Awards*, monthly *E-Briefs*, annual *UPDATE* evaluations, and our excellent website. Here's what to do: **Click the Donate link**. Then, scroll down to the section on the **National Network of Partnership Schools**.

[Donate!](#)

NNPS appreciates your tax-deductible donation. The University and NNPS will send official acknowledgements of your donation for tax purposes. Thank you!

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**In partnership,**

**Brenda, Rachel, Steven, and Joyce  
The NNPS Team**

