

Leadership Line

NNPS *Samplers* Link Research with Practices in Reading, Math, and Science

NNPS is a unique professional development organization: Our research informs practice and your practice informs our research! The marriage of research with practice helps members of NNPS to design and implement activities that address important goals for student success.

The importance of goal-linked school, family, and community partnerships has been well documented in research. Everyone is interested in the connections, for example, of family involvement in reading with students' reading skills. Often the research is hard to find.¹ Everyone also knows that NNPS's annual books of *Promising Partnership Practices* are wonderful collections of good ideas for involving families in goal-linked ways. But not everyone has time to search through all twelve books for ways to get started.

The new NNPS *Samplers* solve both of these problems. Three *Samplers* have been developed so far on family and community involvement in reading, math, and science. Each *Sampler* puts a summary of research close at hand on the results of partnership practices for students along with ten excellent involvement activities for that subject from our collections of *Promising Partnership Practices*. Each *Sampler* also includes a description of the importance of family involvement for increasing student achievement in that subject.

The activities include family nights, workshops, volunteer activities, student work, and other creative practices that were implemented by members of NNPS. Their reports indicate that the practices were successful in engaging diverse families and enriching student learning in many different ways at all grade levels. The activities

also demonstrate the use of the six types of involvement in the NNPS framework: parenting, communicating, volunteering, learning at home, decision making, and collaborating with the community. The field-tested activities may be used or adapted by other schools' Action Teams for Partnerships (ATPs) and by district leaders to strengthen their programs of family and community involvement.

Share the Information

Who cares about research-based partnership practices linked to specific goals for student success in reading, math, and science? All of your colleagues care. Action Teams for Partnerships and district, state, and organization Leaders for Partnerships in NNPS should share the *Samplers* with co-workers to build support for your partnership programs.

Principals, reading coaches, math curriculum leaders, science specialists, school board members, other district leaders, and other colleagues need to know that partnership programs can help students improve their attitudes, skills, and test scores in reading, math, and science. Every school should have a well-planned partnership program that deliberately guides parents and community partners to contribute to the same goals that teachers are working on with students at all grade levels.

To explore the *Samplers*, click on:

[**Sampler: Family and Community Involvement in Reading**](#)

Make Partnerships Part of the Story

[**Sampler: Family and Community Involvement in Math**](#)

Math Partnerships = Student Success

[**Sampler: Family and Community Involvement in Science**](#)

Scientifically Speaking...

Packets of 10 print copies of the *Samplers* may be ordered from NNPS: [**Sampler Order form**](#).

Of course, each *Sampler* includes just a few of many excellent activities in the NNPS annual collections. For more ideas visit <http://www.partnershipschools.org> and follow the links to Success Stories and to a particular edition of *Promising Partnership Practices*. Click on the goal(s) that interest you for improving school climate and student success. ♦

1) See a comprehensive review of research by Dr. Steven Sheldon on the results of family involvement on students' reading, math, and science skills, behavior, attendance, and successful school transitions in Chapter 1 of the NNPS Handbook for Action, Third Edition.

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Meeting the Challenge

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students are expected to learn. Excellent involvement activities will help parents support their children's attitudes and learning in these subjects and may encourage students to pursue STEM careers. ♦

1) For more about these and other captivating activities to increase family and community involvement in STEM subjects see, *Promising Partnership Practices* at www.partnershipschools.org in the section Success Stories.