



# NATIONAL NETWORK OF Partnership Schools JOHNS HOPKINS UNIVERSITY

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TEL: 410-516-2318      FA X: 410-516-5572      e-mail: [nnps@jhu.edu](mailto:nnps@jhu.edu)      [www.partnershipschools.org](http://www.partnershipschools.org)

Dear Colleague:

*You are invited.* . . . You are invited to join the National Network of Partnership Schools (NNPS) at Johns Hopkins University. NNPS invites districts, schools, organizations, and states to work together to improve their leadership and programs of school, family, and community partnerships. Based on more than three decades of research and field tests, we know that this goal can be attained by all elementary, middle, and high schools, and that district, state, and organization leaders can play important roles in assisting schools to improve family and community engagement activities to increase student success.

*About NNPS.* . . . NNPS guides school teams of educators, parents, and community partners to use research-based approaches including an Action Team for Partnerships (ATP) and the framework of six types of involvement (*parenting, communicating, volunteering, learning at home, decision making, and collaborating with the community*) to plan and conduct comprehensive partnership programs. Researchers and facilitators at Johns Hopkins University train and assist school, district, state, and organization leaders to understand, implement, evaluate, and continually improve goal-linked programs of partnerships. The purpose is to ensure a welcoming climate, improve student attendance and school behavior, and increase student achievement, graduation rates, and readiness for college or career.

NNPS presently includes over 500 schools, districts, organizations, and state departments of education that want to apply research to improve the quality of family and community involvement and results for students. The NNPS website, [www.partnershipschools.org](http://www.partnershipschools.org), includes information on key program components (see NNPS Model), research summaries, and examples of outstanding programs and practices (see Success Stories.) See the list of benefits, levels of membership, details on “Why NNPS?”, and membership forms in the section Join NNPS.

*Requirements.* . . . Schools, districts, states, and organizations that join NNPS must meet a few requirements described on the membership form. Our research identified 8 essential elements of successful programs: leadership, teamwork, written plans, implemented action, funding, collegial support, evaluation, and networking. NNPS will assist you in developing all of these essential elements for a research-based program that will improve from year to year.

*Fees.* . . . NNPS charges modest fees for many benefits and services.

- There is a **professional development and processing fee of \$500 for each school, district, state, and organization**, which must accompany each membership form.

See options for districts, states, and organizations to join NNPS at the **Member** or **Partner** level.

- NNPS district, state, and organization leaders are invited to attend a **2-day Professional Development Institute in Baltimore or online in the spring or fall** to prepare to be experts on partnership programs and to facilitate schools in developing excellent programs of family and community engagement.
- There is an annual renewal fee of \$250 per member to continue membership benefits and services from year to year, including an annual evaluation of program progress.

*Benefits.* . . . The National Network of Partnership Schools offers many benefits and services to help members increase their knowledge and develop skills in developing effective programs of partnerships for student success. These are provided as part of membership, unless otherwise noted. Benefits include:

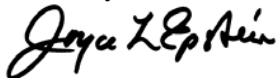
- **Comprehensive handbook.** *School, Family, and Community Partnerships: Your Handbook for Action, Fourth Edition* includes summaries of research, guidelines for workshops on partnerships, presentation PowerPoint on CD, an inventory of starting points, planning and evaluation forms, and other tools to help develop and strengthen your partnership program. The CD includes materials in English and Spanish.
- **Certificate of membership.** This recognizes your commitment to developing a goal-linked program of school, family, and community partnerships.
- **Monthly E-Briefs** from NNPS Facilitators with information and resources for on-going program development.
- **On-call consultations with NNPS staff.** Members may contact NNPS at any time by phone, e-mail, or website to ask questions or request information about partnership program development.
- **Excellent website – [www.partnershipschools.org](http://www.partnershipschools.org).** The NNPS website is chock full of information on partnerships; research summaries; examples of best practices in elementary, middle, and high schools, districts, states, and organizations; and more.
- **Type 2 Blog.** Each *Blog* features a summary of new research, examples of good practices, or guidelines for continuous progress in partnership program development. *Type 2 Blog* is emailed to all NNPS Key Contacts and is posted on the website.
- **Annual evaluations.** The annual *UPDATE* survey enables members to assess their program's progress each year. NNPS collects the data and provides summaries of *UPDATE* data from schools and districts to all members to use in their own evaluations of family and community engagement. The annual renewal fee covers data collection, processing, analysis, reporting, customized reports to districts, and all other membership benefits for the next school year.
- **Promising Partnership Practices.** The annual e-book spotlights activities from schools, districts, states, and organizations in NNPS. All members may submit a best practices for consideration in each book. Each member-site received a copy by email and the book is posted on the NNPS website in the section *Success Stories*.
- **Partnership Awards.** NNPS recognizes schools, districts, states, and organizations that demonstrate excellence in implementing research-based approaches to improve their programs of school, family, and community partnerships for two years or more.
- **Other tools, materials, and webinars.** NNPS designs and develops new guidelines and training activities each year to assist you with your work on school, family, and community partnerships.
- **Leadership Development Institutes (registration fee required).** NNPS conducts a 2-day intensive professional development Institute for district, organization, and state leaders in the fall and spring. The Institute helps leaders establish and improve their partnership programs and effectively facilitate schools to work with their own students' families.

*Why should you join?* NNPS will help your district, school, state, or organization become a national leader in conducting school, family, and community partnerships that contribute to school improvement goals. NNPS's research-based approaches help create a welcoming school environment, strengthen families, and increase student success in school. These approaches enable schools, LEAs, and SEAs to meet Title I and other policies for family and community engagement. In NNPS, members network with each other to learn about and share successful partnership practices.

If you are committed to improving school, family, and community partnerships for student success, complete and return the school, district, state, or organization Membership Form.

Call with any questions. My staff and I look forward to working with you on this important agenda.

Sincerely,



Joyce L. Epstein, Ph.D.

Director and Professor of Education and Sociology



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

*Working Together for Student Success*

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## Membership Form for ORGANIZATIONS

Please complete and return this form to register your organization<sup>1</sup> as a member of the National Network of Partnership Schools (NNPS) at Johns Hopkins University. The Key Contact will be sent a handbook and other information on how to help schools and school districts plan and implement effective programs of school, family, and community partnerships.

Name of Organization: \_\_\_\_\_  
Please write name exactly as it should appear on the NNPS Certificate of Membership.

Name of Key Contact to the National Network of Partnership Schools: \_\_\_\_\_

Position: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ Fax: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail address: \_\_\_\_\_ Website: \_\_\_\_\_

(You may list up to 4 contacts with e-mail addresses to receive the e-communications from NNPS)

### ABOUT YOUR ORGANIZATION

How does your organization work with schools and/or districts on school, family, and community partnerships? Check (✓) one, or briefly describe your work.

☐ **Our work is most like a state department of education.**  
We conduct state or regional conferences and workshops; assist many district leaders to learn about school, family, and community partnerships; respond to requests for information on partnerships statewide; and conduct other leadership activities on partnerships for large numbers of schools and/or districts in the state.

☐ **Our work is most like a school district.**  
We assist individual schools; conduct training workshops for school leaders and teams of teachers, parents, administrators, and community members; conduct school site visits; and assist schools' Action Teams for Partnerships in other ways.

☐ **Our work on partnerships is different from the work of states or districts.**  
(Please describe briefly) \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

How long has your organization been working with schools and districts or other educators on school, family, and community partnerships? \_\_\_\_\_

Does your ORGANIZATION have a formal written policy about involving families? ☐ YES ☐ NO  
If YES, please attach a copy of the policy to this form.

<sup>1</sup> Note: "Organization" refers to a regional education office, intermediate unit, university project, or other group that works with districts and/or schools on developing strong programs of school, family, and community partnerships. Organizations in NNPS help districts and/or schools join NNPS and use research-based approaches to improve their programs of family and community engagement.

## FOUR REQUIREMENTS and GOALS FOR MEMBERSHIP

To join NNPS, an organization must be willing to work toward four goals and requirements. NNPS will guide your organization to meet these goals.

THIS ORGANIZATION WILL . . .

Check YES or NO

**1. Identify the staff leader(s) who will conduct the organization's program of school, family, and community partnerships.**

The leader(s) will serve as Key Contact(s) to NNPS. They will write an annual plan or implement a funded project to guide districts and/or schools in developing their partnership programs.

☐ YES ☐ NO

**2. Allocate an annual budget for salaries and program costs for the organization's work with districts and/or schools on partnerships.** Funds may come from federal, state, and local programs that mandate or support family and community involvement, including Title I, or from specific grants for partnership projects.

☐ YES ☐ NO

**3. Complete an annual UPDATE survey to evaluate progress and renew membership in NNPS.** The organization must complete UPDATE—to take stock of progress each year and challenges to solve in the next school year. By returning UPDATE, the organization renews membership in NNPS and continues to receive benefits and services.

☐ YES ☐ NO

**4. Help each participating school or district meet the requirements and goals for membership in NNPS.**

*Schools* must be willing to create an Action Team for Partnerships (ATP); use the framework of six types of involvement to plan their partnership programs; identify a budget for partnership activities; allocate time for team meetings; and complete an annual UPDATE survey.

*Districts* must be willing to identify a leader for partnerships who will facilitate the work of school-based ATPs to work with their own students' families; identify a budget for partnerships; and complete an annual UPDATE survey.

See the NNPS Membership Forms for schools and districts for details.

☐ YES ☐ NO

If you cannot answer YES to these four goals for leadership on partnerships, please postpone returning this form until your organization is ready.

How did you learn about the National Network of Partnership Schools?

☐ In an article or book

☐ At a conference or workshop

☐ From a colleague

☐ On the Internet ([www.partnershipschools.org](http://www.partnershipschools.org))

☐ From a state or district leader

☐ Other (describe) \_\_\_\_\_

Why is your organization joining the National Network? Please check (✓) the top THREE reasons.

This organization wants to help schools and/or districts improve . . .

☐ Knowledge, plans, and actions on partnerships

☐ How to link partnerships to specific school goals

☐ How families are involved in decisions

☐ The number of families involved at each school

☐ Other main goal (describe) \_\_\_\_\_

☐ Student attendance

☐ Student academic test scores and grades

☐ Homework completion

☐ Student behavior and discipline

## ABOUT THE SCHOOLS AND/OR DISTRICTS THAT YOUR ORGANIZATION WILL ASSIST

About how many schools and/or districts will your organization work with in the next school year?

In the next school year: \_\_\_\_ elementary schs \_\_\_\_ middle schs \_\_\_\_ high schs \_\_\_\_ districts  
 \_\_\_\_ other (please describe) \_\_\_\_\_

Please fill in the number to show how your staff will facilitate these schools and/or districts.

In the next school year: \_\_\_\_\_ FTE facilitator(s) will work with these schools and districts.

Does your organization provide any funds or grants to schools and/or districts for their partnership programs? ☐ NO ☐ YES If YES, indicate the average grant or funds per site: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Does your organization charge fees to schools or districts for your services on partnerships?

☐ NO ☐ YES If YES, indicate the average fee: \$ \_\_\_\_\_ per school \$ \_\_\_\_\_ per district

### PLEASE ESTIMATE:

In the schools and/or districts that your organization will assist with partnerships in the next school year...

Percent of students who are:

\_\_\_\_ % Black                      \_\_\_\_ % American Indian                      \_\_\_\_ % Asian American  
 \_\_\_\_ % Latino/Hispanic American                      \_\_\_\_ % White                      \_\_\_\_ % Other

Percent of families who speak a language other than English at home: \_\_\_\_ %

Percent of children receiving free or reduced-price lunch: \_\_\_\_ %

Features of schools and/or districts you will work with (check all that apply):

- ☐ Public    ☐ Private    ☐ Religious                      ☐ Urban    ☐ Suburban    ☐ Rural  
☐ Title I school-wide programs    ☐ Charter Schools    ☐ Schools that serve military families  
☐ Other special features (describe) \_\_\_\_\_

## QUALITY OF FAMILY AND COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

How would you rate the quality of partnership programs, on average, in the schools and districts with which your organization will work? Check (✓) one on each line.

|                                                                                                               | Excellent             | Good                  | Fair                  | Weak                  | N/A or<br>Don't Know  |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| AT THIS TIME . . .                                                                                            |                       |                       |                       |                       |                       |
| Quality of family and community involvement plans and activities in <u>most schools</u> with which you work   | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Quality of family and community involvement plans and activities in <u>most districts</u> with which you work | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Quality of school and district connections with communities                                                   | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| School leaders' commitment to improve partnership programs                                                    | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| District leaders' commitment to improve partnership programs                                                  | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Quality of your organization's communications with other state and district leaders who work on partnerships  | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |

Think ahead three years. How might your organization's leadership and activities on partnerships be different from today? Give two examples how your organization wants to change and improve its work with schools and districts on family and community involvement over the next three years.

## APPROVAL AND SUPPORT BY DIRECTOR OR SUPERVISOR (REQUIRED)

I have reviewed and discussed this membership form with the Key Contact named above. As a member of the National Network of Partnership Schools (NNPS), this organization will help schools and/or districts in our project(s) to develop and maintain strong programs of school, family, and community partnerships.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Director/Supervisor's Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Director/Supervisor's Name (please print)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Director/Supervisor's Email

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

## MEMBERSHIP FORM and PAYMENT

How is your organization joining NNPS? (Check one and complete the correct payment section.)

- ☐ **LEVEL 1: MEMBER** (organization only) Complete **FORM 1**, below.
- ☐ **LEVEL 2: PARTNER** (organization with districts or schools) Complete **FORM 2**, skip to page 5.

**FORM 1** (Organization **MEMBER**) The fee for an organization to join the National Network of Partnership Schools (NNPS) is \$500. The main Key Contact to NNPS will the NNPS new member packet and all benefits and services.

### Method of payment:

- ☐ Purchase Order Include a hard copy of the P.O.  
P.O. # \_\_\_\_\_ Vendor: Johns Hopkins University
- ☐ Credit Card ☐ Visa ☐ Master Card ☐ Discover

(Print Clearly) Name on Card: \_\_\_\_\_

NOTE: Johns Hopkins University now requires additional security for credit card payments.

Your program may pay its membership fee with a credit card by calling:

**Rachel Chappell, NNPS Coordinator, 410-516-2318**

Verify the Name on Card. Have ready your Card Number and Expiration Date.

Rachel will complete the payment electronically with you online.

### PLEASE SCAN AND SEND.

EMAIL the ORGANIZATION Membership Form  
with a copy of a P.O. to NNPS at:  
[nnps@jhu.edu](mailto:nnps@jhu.edu)

### or MAIL TO :

Dr. Joyce Epstein, Director  
NNPS at JHU  
2800 North Charles Street, Suite 420  
Baltimore, MD 21218

If your organization requires a different method of payment, or if you have any questions,  
contact Rachel Chappell, NNPS Coordinator, [nnps@jhu.edu](mailto:nnps@jhu.edu). Tel: 410-516-2318  
or Dr. Joyce L. Epstein, Director, NNPS, [jepstein@jhu.edu](mailto:jepstein@jhu.edu). Tel: 410-516-8807

Please keep a copy of this membership form for your records. Thank you!

## MEMBERSHIP FORM and PAYMENT

### **LEVEL 2: PARTNER** Free ORGANIZATION membership when joining with schools.

Note: Organizations also may earn a free membership if they join with districts. See the STATE membership form for details to join NNPS as a Level 2: PARTNER with districts.

### **FORM 2 (ORGANIZATION PARTNER with 8 schools or more, or with all schools in a small district.)**

The main Organization Key Contact to NNPS and each main School Key Contact to NNPS will receive the NNPS new member packet and all benefits and services.

### **Send NNPS your ORGANIZATION PARTNER PACKET.**

#### **Include the following:**

- ☐ 1. A list of the names of schools joining NNPS with the organization.  
There must be 8 schools or more or all schools in smaller districts.
- ☐ 2. Copies of the ORGANIZATION Membership Form and SCHOOL Membership Forms for the schools listed. All membership forms are at [www.partnershipschools.org](http://www.partnershipschools.org) in JOIN NNPS.

#### **Method of payment:**

Make **one payment** for all SCHOOL MEMBERS on your list @\$500 per school, payable to Johns Hopkins University. Organization membership is free.

- ☐ Purchase Order      Include a hard copy of the P.O.  
P.O.# \_\_\_\_\_ Vendor: Johns Hopkins University
- ☐ Credit Card      ☐ Visa      ☐ Master Card      ☐ Discover

(Print Clearly) Name on Card: \_\_\_\_\_

NOTE: Johns Hopkins University now requires additional security for credit card payments.

Your program may pay its membership fee with a credit card by calling:

**Rachel Chappell, NNPS Coordinator, 410-516-2318**

Verify the Name on Card. Have ready your Card Number and Expiration Date.

Rachel will complete the payment electronically with you online.

### **LEVEL 2-ORGANIZATION PARTNER PACKET:** Include following attachments:

- (1) List of SCHOOLS joining NNPS with the ORGANIZATION;
- (2) Membership form for ORGANIZATION;
- (3) Membership forms for SCHOOLS;
- (4) Payment for SCHOOLS. (FREE membership for ORGANIZATION.)

PLEASE ATTACH ALL FORMS AND SEND:  
EMAIL the Organization Membership Form  
along with all School Membership Forms  
with a copy of a P.O. to NNPS at:  
[nnps@jhu.edu](mailto:nnps@jhu.edu)

or MAIL TO :

Dr. Joyce Epstein, Director  
NNPS at JHU  
2800 North Charles Street, Suite 420  
Baltimore, MD 21218

If your organization requires a different method of payment, or if you have any questions,  
contact Rachel Chappell, NNPS Coordinator, [nnps@jhu.edu](mailto:nnps@jhu.edu). Tel: 410-516-2318  
or Dr. Joyce L. Epstein, Director, NNPS, [jepstein@jhu.edu](mailto:jepstein@jhu.edu). Tel: 410-516-8807

Please keep a copy of the organization and all school membership forms for your records. Thank you!