



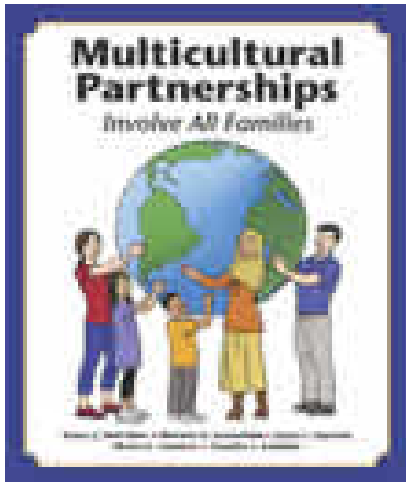
National Network of Partnership Schools (NNPS) 2023 December E-Brief for Schools in NNPS



December marks the end of the calendar year.
It's time for a winter holiday. That's worth a cheer!
In 2024, we'll work to make partnership programs great,
With family engagement for student success. Right now—let's celebrate!

NNPS will stay connected with you in our monthly *E-Briefs* as you design and implement partnership activities to increase student success. Check *E-Brief* each month for timely information to advance your leadership, plans, and practices of family and community engagement.

THEME FOR THE YEAR: Tools You Can Use.



The NNPS book, *Multicultural Partnerships: Involve All Families* (by Hutchins, Greenfeld, Epstein, Sanders, & Galindo, 2012) is an important and useful resource. Just about all districts and schools in NNPS serve highly diverse populations of students and families. This book includes a summary of research on the importance of engaging *all* families as partners in children's education. It offers many ideas and examples of activities to celebrate diversity at school and at home with Multicultural Nights, Workshops for Parents, and Connections with the Curriculum.

Why is this a good tool to use? Each chapter provides details on the purposes, materials, planning, and guidelines for conducting fun, responsive, and effective activities with diverse families. See how to feature students' artwork, engage parents in sharing childhood games and favorite stories, spotlight students' projects in reading, math, social studies, and more. All family engagement activities are in English and Spanish. The partnership practices in this book will enable you to recognize the strengths of all cultures and enable all families to support student learning at school and at home. See [Multicultural Partnerships Involve ALL Families](#).

THANKS FOR RENEWING YOUR NNPS MEMBERSHIP!

Thanks to all members of NNPS who returned their 2023 *UPDATEs* and renewal fees to continue partnering with NNPS for the 2023-24 school year! NNPS will analyze the UPDATE data and report results back to members by March 2024. The information provides a portrait of partnership program development across the country. Results help members of NNPS improve their programs from year to year. Members will continue to receive the l-o-n-g list of benefits from NNPS (see the list of member services in the section *Join NNPS* at www.partnershipschools.org). Thank you for your national leadership on family and community engagement!

Upcoming PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT Opportunity from NNPS

Free Webinar for Schools' ATPs—February 20, 2024

This webinar will help school-based Action Teams for Partnerships (ATPs) understand the NNPS “BASICS.” Topics include ten steps to partnership success, how to strengthen the ATP, and how to write a goal-linked action plan for the 2024-25 school year. Members of the ATP should attend this webinar together.

Register for Free Webinar for school ATPs. To register, contact Brenda Thomas at nnps@jhu.edu. List your name, affiliation, e-mail address, and the words **Register for Free NNPS School ATP Webinar**. The webinar is a benefit of membership.

YOUR SPACE

This is *YOUR SPACE* where we feature creative and important activities from *Promising Partnership Practice 2023*. Feel free to adopt or adapt these ideas. You also may send in a new activity to Brenda Thomas during the year (bthomas@jhu.edu), OR send a question to NNPS to solve an emerging challenge. We will address your question in *YOUR SPACE*.

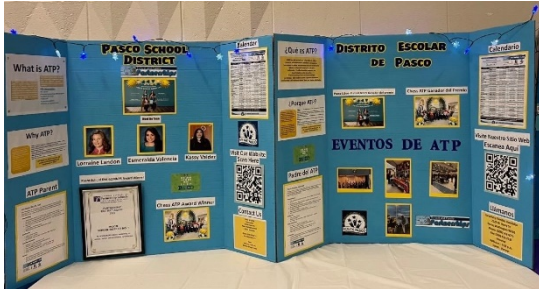
***We Both Read: Books and Blankets* at A. J. Lewis Greenview Elementary School in Columbia, SC, was reported by Glenda Wright, Family Service Advocate, in Richland County School District One.** Greenview works hard to improve students’ literacy skills and attitudes. Last year, one family engagement activity focused on 40 students who would benefit from extra TLC in reading. Teachers introduced parents and students to the *We Both Read* books that guide shared reading strategies. For example, parents read the left hand page of a prepared book and students read the right hand page. They talk together about the story ideas, characters, and illustrations. Community partners donated cookies, hot chocolate, and blankets, which each family could keep for cozy reading at home. This is a “forever” item on many teachers’ agendas at all grade levels. *Books and Blankets* added a family engagement strategy to support the importance of students’ reading for pleasure at home.

Click on the hot chocolate to read more about *Books and Blankets* on pages 8-9 in *Promising Partnership Practices 2023*.



NNPS and SOCIAL MEDIA

Pasco School District One in Pasco, WA, showcased Partnership Trifolds in their project *Enhanced Communication: Kick It Up A Notch*.



Pasco School District's District Partnership Trifold in English and Spanish displayed at the Pasco District's Winter Carnival, 2023



The Pasco Schools' Trifold Gallery Walk at the 2023 Pasco District Winter Carnival.

60-minute Audio Recording

Listen to the 60-minute audio recordings (here or on Pasco School District One's website. Click here to get to the recordings: [mp3 in English and Spanish](#). Go to: + What is ATP in 60 secs.

Click here to see other information and photos on the district website: [ATP Resources - Pasco School District \(psd1.org\)](#)

NNPS *Facebook* is a networking tool. Please send photos of the partnership activities that you conduct throughout the year with a short sentence description and your name and affiliation to Brenda Thomas at nnps@jhu.edu. We will select some to add to NNPS's *Facebook* page.

NNPS Members-Only Access Code

The **MEMBERS-ONLY CODE** gives special benefits to active members of NNPS. The **Members-Only Access Code** is **NNPS23mem**. On the website, www.partnershipschoools.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.

Note: The member-access code will change in January to serve those who renewed membership for the 2023-24 school year. We will remind you of the code in every month's *E-Brief*.

SUPPORT NNPS! Tis the season for giving!

It's the end of the year and a good time to make a tax-deductible donation for 2023. Please think of NNPS. Your donation supports NNPS's unique projects—books of *Promising Partnership Practices*, *Partnership Awards*, monthly *E-Briefs*, Annual *UPDATE* evaluations and reports, and our excellent website. Here's how: Click the **Donate** link. Indicate your gift and scroll down through Research Centers to the **National Network of Partnership Schools**. Click **Continue as Guest** and complete your donation.

DONATE!

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

Have a joyous holiday!

We look forward to 2024—a year of strong partnerships for student success!



**In partnership,
Brenda, Steve, and
Joyce
The NNPS Team**

The NNPS School E-Brief is disseminated once a month during the school year. The E-Brief is intended to:

1. Offer timely information to support your efforts to build comprehensive school, family, and community partnership programs.
2. Update you on available research, tools, materials, services, and training opportunities from the National Network of Partnership Schools.
3. Provide you with a vehicle to exchange ideas with, ask questions of, and share resources with other NNPS members and the NNPS staff.

To respond to NNPS about an E-Brief, click "Reply" and you will send your email only to me, Brenda Thomas.

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