



Leadership Line



**Volume 2. Number 1.
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Leadership Line is the newsletter for NNPS Professional Development Partners. It includes recordings, summaries, and resources from NNPS workshops and meetings to support and advance YOUR program of family and community engagement.

Currently, NNPS Professional Development Partners include state, region, organization, and/or district leaders from AR, CT, LA, ME, NJ, NY, OH, PA, SC, and WA.

Please share each issue of *Leadership Line* with your staff, colleagues, and partners who help you conduct and improve your partnership program.

NNPS Professional Development Activities – September 2025

Awareness Session – September 9

Recording: <https://youtu.be/Njm1zeTng-c>

NNPS *Awareness Session* contrasts the “old way” of thinking about school, family, and community partnerships and the “new way” based on many years of NNPS research. We guide state, region, and district leaders for partnerships to understand and implement proven structures and processes that enable all schools to welcome all families to increase student success. The *Awareness Session* helps leaders at all policy levels get “on the same page” to organize their programs and practices of family and community engagement.

State, region, and district leaders may use the recording with their own groups to strengthen support for their goals for partnerships in the 2025-26 school year. Or contact nnps@jhu.edu to request the *PowerPoint* presentation to use with your audiences.

Many attending the *Awareness Session* explained why the information was important, including:

- The NNPS framework of six types of involvement makes it easy to share examples of how to improve family engagement.
- I think linking family engagement activities to goals for student learning is most important for my district and all schools.

- The topic of equity—engage all families not a few—is most important because our district is very diverse in languages, cultures, and other ways. And right now reaching all families is a challenge.
- Most important is shifting family engagement from who comes to PTA meetings to how everyone can help students meet goals in our School Improvement Plan.
- This is a challenge because our immigrant families are wary of governmental institutions—which includes schools.
- This was an excellent program!
- Changing from “parent involvement” to “school, family, and community partnerships” tells that everyone has a role to play to support student success. For us that included teachers, cafeteria workers, bus drivers... everyone!

Quarterly Meeting: Let's Talk about Partnerships – September 18

Recording: <https://youtu.be/WazwWzulCR0>

The first quarterly support session for the 2025-26 school year—*Let's Talk about Partnerships*—enabled leaders to meet NNPS and each other to communicate about important issues and exchange ideas about best practices and challenges they face to improve programs of school, family, and community partnerships.

NNPS discussed why Professional Development Partners should reach out to invite their staff and colleagues in other departments to attend NNPS sessions with them. This will increase understanding and support to strengthen programs of family and community engagement. With collegial support, state, region, and district leaders will know that *their work is valued by others* and that *they do not have to work alone*. Remember: NNPS does not charge registration fees for colleagues to attend our workshops and meetings with Professional Development Partners.

The *Let's Talk* session included a breakout activity for small groups of leaders to *Meet Each Other! Think Together!* and to discuss two topics: (1) Share a best practice; (2) Discuss an emerging challenge. This generated good discussions among attendees. Here are a few reactions from attendees:

- I am excited to move forward on this initiative.
- I learned about the advantages of partnerships and want to know more about the most effective resources to communicate with parents.
- I learned how different districts use incentives to help schools engage their families.
- Thanks so much. These conversations are enjoyable and helpful.

Leadership Institute – September 25

Recording: <https://youtu.be/-LzGtcqEBEI>

The Leadership Institute is a major NNPS workshop to guide state, region, and district leaders to make room in their busy schedules to “coach” or “facilitate” schools’ Action Teams for Partnerships (ATPs). School teams (i.e., parents, teachers, administrators, and others) need to know that their district leaders are experts who will guide the ATP to improve the school’s partnership program and practices.

Leaders learn to schedule LEADERSHIP and FACILITATION activities. “Leadership activities” refer to the leaders’ work on partnerships that benefits their whole state, region, or district. “Facilitation” refers to the coaching and support that state and regional leaders conduct with district leaders for partnerships, and that district leaders conduct to help their schools’ ATPs improve partnerships with their own students’ families. By distributing leadership in this way, programs at all policy levels—state, region, district, and school—will continually improve.

In two breakout activities, NNPS Professional Development Partners talked with others about how they worked to LEAD and FACILITATE partnerships in their locations.

Attendees were listening. Here are a few comments:

- Chatting with others was very useful—particularly to learn what they found most useful about the model.
- I learned to problem solve challenges so that folks can join all the wonderful PD and collaboration opportunities that I am planning.
- Thank you all for the information and for your time!
- Question from a district leader: How do we obtain an NNPS *Handbook*? The book is:
Epstein, J. L., et al. (2019). *School, family, and community partnerships: Your handbook for action*. 4th edition. Thousand Oaks, CA: Corwin Press.

Answer: See a description of the NNPS *Handbook for Action* on the NNPS website — link on homepage: www.partnershipschoools.org. The book is available from www.Amazon.com or from the publisher (Corwin Press) with discounts for large order over 10 books at <https://www.corwin.com/books/school-family-and-community-pa-242535>

NEWS, NOTES, and NATIONAL RECOGNITION

This section of *Leadership Line* provides information on upcoming professional development activities, announcements from YOU for other Professional Development Partners, and—new this year—a spotlight to give national recognition and kudos to your program for excellent leadership on partnerships and successful activities.

NEWS and NOTES

1. Coming up in October:

Wednesday, October 15 – NNPS School Team-Training Workshop

Guide your SCHOOLS to form an ATP and attend this workshop with you. This basic training prepares each school to plan, implement, evaluate, and continually improve a GOAL-LINKED program of family and community engagement that increases student success in school.

Each school’s ATP will meet—as a TEAM— in a Zoom Room in their school to work together at this workshop

2. **NEW THIS YEAR! *Talk Time with Brenda – An Open Office Hour.***

On the TEAMS platform, you can talk with Brenda about a question, challenge, or request for NNPS resources to help you strengthen your partnership program. Just want to talk about family and community engagement activities? Call in. Brenda loves to talk partnerships.

Talk Time with Brenda is from 2-3 p.m. (EST) on the 2nd and 4th Mondays of each month starting in October on the same TEAMS link each time. We will send the link prior to October 13—the first *Talk Time with Brenda*.

3. **NEW THIS YEAR! NATIONAL RECOGNITION**

Each issue of *Leadership Line* will spotlight a state, region, and/or district that conducted an excellent leadership activity as part of its partnership program.



September Spotlight

State Leadership: Congratulations to the Ohio Statewide Family Engagement Center for its stellar website. Visit <https://ohiofamiliesengage.osu.edu/resource/educators/> See how OhSFEC features best practices and evaluations of its growing Ohio Network of Partnership Schools at <https://ohiofamiliesengage.osu.edu/ohio-network-of-partnership-schools/>.

District Leadership: Congratulations to the Pasco School District in Washington for its excellent guidance and support for *all schools' Action Teams for Partnerships*. District leaders share schools' advances and best practices on the district website at <https://www.psd1.org/search-results?q=Family+engagement>. See, for example, the district's links to several middle schools—i.e., McLoughlin, Reynolds, Stevens, and Ochoa Middle Schools— for their Action Teams for Partnerships.

INPUT—INPUT—INPUT

1. Did your state, region or district
 - a. **evaluate progress** on partnerships at the end of the 2024-25 school year?
 - OR
 - b. **collect and share best practices** conducted in the 2024-25 school year?.Send YOUR web link to NNPS and we will share your important examples with all Professional Development Partners.
2. Are you working to solve an emerging challenge that you want to discuss at the next NNPS *Let's Talk about Partnerships*? Send your challenging topic to us at nnps@jhu.edu.

NNPS will schedule YOUR Challenge as a topic to talk about at the next *Let's Talk* (November 5).

3. Do you need NNPS materials, resources, or other assistance to help you with your work? Send your request to us at nnps@jhu.edu.
4. Do you have an idea or new information to share with other Professional Development Partners in the next **Leadership Line**? Send your *INPUT* to us at nnps@jhu.edu.

Fall pix for path to partnerships new PIX

We are walking the *Leadership Line* with you on the path to great partnerships!

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