



Leadership Line

**Volume 2. Number 2.
October 30, 2025**

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, NH, NJ, NY, OH, 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 – October 2025

School-based Action Teams for Partnerships (ATPs) Team-Training Workshop– October 15

Recording: <https://youtu.be/y5wOtYaWdgU>

The *NNPS School-Based Team Training Workshop* prepares Leaders for Partnerships to and their schools to use research-based structures and processes to organize their partnership programs. District leaders attend this workshop *with their schools' ATPs*. They, then, can “coach” their schools' ATPs to plan, implement, and continually improve their programs of family and community engagement for student success.

The workshop presented the NNPS framework of six types of engagement; meeting challenges to reach all families; selecting GOAL-LINKED activities for family engagement to support academic and behavioral goals for students; creating a welcoming school climate; taking an action team approach; and writing a *One-Year Action Plan for Partnerships*.

NNPS partners at the state, region, and district levels may use the recording of this workshop to prepare other schools' ATPs when they are ready to plan their partnership programs.

Typical feedback from attendees included:

- It was great to hear all the examples of how schools apply this model to their school improvement goals—awesome.

- Thanks for giving us time to talk and plan with our team.
- Now we need time to write our plan.
- This was most useful for understanding in depth what the program is all about.
- [As a district leader,] I am looking forward to collaborating with our teams in target schools to complete this and show our goal linked activities.

The attendees also asked important questions. For example, a district leader asked if their schools' ATPs could call NNPS to ask the school's questions? The answer is: Yes—if the district leader arranges a *Zoom* meeting with the school and NNPS, or if the district leader and school team call in for *Talk Time with Brenda*—the open office hour for Q & A (next November 17, 2-3 pm on TEAMS at [Join the meeting now](#)).

Attached are the 4 activities that school ATPs used in this workshop, which district leaders may use with the workshop recording to conduct the *NNPS Team Training Workshop* with new school teams. They are: *Jumping Hurdles*, *Goals Map*, *Creating an ATP*, and *One-Year Action Plan for Partnerships*.

District Leaders for Partnerships should give their schools' ATPs that attended the ***NNPS Team Training Workshop*** a date—a deadline—to complete the *One-Year Action Plan for Partnerships* for the 2025-26 school year. The schools will email a copy of their 4-page plan to the District Leader and to all members of the ATP. With a completed plan, school-based ATPs will be able to conduct their partnership programs and scheduled practices.

**Quarterly Meeting: Let's Learn More about Partnerships –
GOAL-LINKED Partnership Activities: What? Why? How?
October 28, 2025**

Recording: <https://youtu.be/RbqTa4KpY00>

The first quarterly knowledge-building session for the 2025-26 school year—*Let's Learn More about Partnerships*—explored GOAL-LINKED Partnership Activities—What? Why? How?

Steve Sheldon shared the results of research that confirms that when schools implement goal-linked family engagement activities (e.g., in reading, math, and for behavioral outcomes), there are measurable positive results for students at all grade levels. See Steve's research slides, attached.

Joyce Epstein presented examples of goal-linked activities that have been implemented successfully in NNPS schools in diverse locations and at different grade levels. The examples (and many others in the NNPS *Handbook* and books of *Promising Partnership Practices*) may be “adopted” or “adapted” by school-based Action Teams for Partnerships (ATPs) as they plan their programs and practices for the 2025-26 school year.

District leaders may share and discuss the information about GOAL-LINKED programs with their schools' ATPs. **(2 ATTACHMENTS BRENDA)**

NEWS, NOTES, and NATIONAL RECOGNITION

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

NEWS and NOTES

1. COMING UP: NNPS Professional Development Activities

NOVEMBER 5

Let's Talk about Partnerships – This quarterly session enables NNPS Professional Development Partners to meet each other to discuss best practices and emerging challenges.

At this meeting, NNPS will discuss the importance of recognizing the work that all teachers in a school do with their own students' families. There must be teachers on the ATP, but all teachers in a school are important for a welcoming climate and GOAL-LINKED activities for student learning and development at all grade levels.

DECEMBER 10

Let's Learn More about Partnerships – The next quarterly knowledge-building session on research and practice will focus on *The Student's Role in Partnership Activities*. NNPS has been encouraging attention to the many ways that students may help increase family participation at school, at home, and in the community. New studies also support and guide this agenda.

NNPS is asking our Professional Development Partners: **What topic do YOU want NNPS to address in a future Let's Learn session to increase your understanding of research and best practices? Send your request to nnps@jhu.edu.**

2. 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. We learn from each other by sharing good ideas and effective practices.



October Spotlight

State Leadership:

NNPS asks all Professional Development Partners to evaluate progress on partnerships at the end of each school year. Congratulations to the **Connecticut Statewide Family**

Engagement Center (CT-SFEC) for examining progress on partnerships in its regions, districts, and schools. Dr. Veronica Marion, Director, and Melissa Redding, Program Manager, asked all of its regions and districts to create an *Impact Poster* on their goals and high-impact strategies to increase family engagement and improve student learning at the end of the 2024-25 school year. **See CT-SFEC's gallery of *IMPACT POSTERS* at:** <https://new.ct-fsp.org/impact/>

INPUT—INPUT—INPUT

1. Are you excited about something that your state, region, district, or schools are doing to strengthen their partnership programs? Let NNPS know so that we can put your work in the spotlight for national recognition.
2. Are you working to solve an emerging challenge that you want to discuss at the next NNPS *Let's Talk about Partnerships*? Send a note on your challenging topic to nnps@jhu.edu. NNPS will include YOUR challenge in one of the next *Let's Talk* sessions.
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. Or call in to *Talk Time with Brenda* (next call in time November 17 from 2-3 pm on TEAMS at [Join the meeting now](#)). Brenda loves to talk partnerships.
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.

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

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