



Leadership Line

Volume 2. Number 3.
November 20, 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 – November 2025

Let's Talk about Partnerships Support Session: November 5

Recording: <https://youtu.be/lhoH4yPFOZM>.

NNPS conducts quarterly meetings—*Let's Talk about Partnerships*—to support our Professional Development Partners. The Nov. 5 agenda included 2 parts.

Part 1: NNPS topic of the day: *Something to Talk About*

What's the question? How can district and school leaders for partnerships recognize the work that all classroom teachers do to connect with and engage their own students' families?

- Teachers who are on the Action Team for Partnerships (ATP) are recognized as teacher-leaders for the school. They serve on the ATP along with parents, administrators, and community members to write a *One -Year Action Plan for Partnerships* for their school. They also take leadership roles to implement, evaluate, and continually improve the school's partnership program.
- **Classroom teachers also connect with the parents of their own students in important ways. Teachers are parents' first connections. They create welcoming classrooms, conduct *Open School Night* activities and parent-teacher conferences, encourage student attendance, connect on homework, and more.**

At *Let's Talk*, leaders discussed other examples of classroom teachers' activities to engage students' families including some that go "above and beyond" teaching duties. For example:

Migda Carrero, Family and Community Engagement Specialist in Stratford Public Schools (CT), noted that ATP committees include teachers who are not on the ATP. For example, teachers and staff participated in schools' ***Be Kind Day***. The activities increased positive attitudes and created a welcoming climate for everyone.

Dr. Sheryl Thomas, Pearl Watson Elementary School in Calcasieu Parish (LA), reported that classroom teachers at all grade levels conducted **Data Day** with parents and students. They discussed children's skills and progress to date and ideas for continuing success. This variation of a parent-teacher-student conference was important—and enjoyable—partnership-ing by all classroom teachers.

Brenda Thomas, NNPS Senior Facilitator, reminded our Professional Development Partners of one good way to help all teachers know that their school (and they) are working to increase and improve family and community engagement. The ATP Chair or Co-Chairs should request 10 minutes of every Faculty Meeting to update the principal and all teachers about upcoming activities and progress on partnerships.

What's the point? NNPS encourages all district leaders to guide their schools' ATPs to recognize classroom teachers who conduct activities that strengthen school, family, and community partnerships. Recognizing all teachers' partnership activities will help unify and continually improve each school's partnership program!

Part 2: Breakout Rooms. NNPS Professional Development Partners meet each other, share best practices, and discuss emerging challenges in their locations.

Let's Talk Breakout Rooms included NNPS Professional Development Partners from the northeast, south, and northwest of the U.S. The states, regions, and districts are in very different locations and serve diverse students and families.

Reports from the Breakouts included:

1) **Shared best practices.**

Melissa Redding, Program Manager of the Connecticut Statewide Family Engagement Center (CT-SFEC) reported all 13 schools—preschool through high school—in Stratford School District (CT) have Action Teams for Partnerships and action plans.

Loree Smith, District Leader for Partnerships in Calcasieu Parish (LA) and others created an *Exit Survey* that every school may use to give parents a "voice" in how to continually improve their partnership programs and practices.

One leader reported that one school's best practice was an ART COLLAGE. Every student selected one of their art works from their art class to display in the school. This increased every student's sense of belonging and accomplishment. And every parent could see their child's art displayed at the school.

2) Emerging and on-going challenges.

Dr. Sheryl Thomas, Calcasieu Parish, discussed a common and persistent challenge for most districts and schools—to help all parents know that their school had an active partnership program. Parents need to know about ATP, what it does, and how every parent is a valued partner in their children’s education.

NEWS, NOTES, and NATIONAL RECOGNITION

This section of *Leadership Line* provides information on upcoming NNPS professional development activities, announcements, and questions from Professional Development Partners for each other, and—new this year—a spotlight to give NNPS 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

DECEMBER 10 *Let’s Learn More about Partnerships* – The next quarterly knowledge-building session will share results of research and examples of best practices on *Students’ Roles in Partnership Activities*. NNPS is interested in whether, when, and how students help increase family engagement at school, at home, and in the community.

NOVEMBER 17

AND

DECEMBER 15
2-3 p.m.

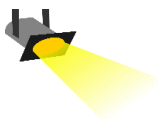


TIME WITH BRENDA

Open “office hour” to discuss any question you have about YOUR partnership program at the state, region, organization, district, or school level. No appointment is needed. Same time each month: 2-3 p.m. (EST). Same TEAMS LINK each month at: [Join the meeting now](#).

2. NEW THIS YEAR! NNPS NATIONAL RECOGNITION

Each issue of *Leadership Line* will spotlight a state, region, and/or district that conducted an excellent leadership activity to strengthen its partnership program. We learn from each other by sharing good ideas and effective practices.



NOVEMBER Spotlight

District Leadership: Pasco School District in Washington.

Leaders: Esmeralda Valencia, Parent Engagement Coordinator
Lorraine Landon, Special Programs Coordinator
Montse Anguiano, Parent Partnership Coordinator
and their colleagues.

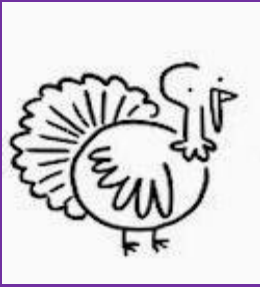
Pasco School District in Pasco, WA, earned NNPS National Recognition for guiding ALL elementary, middle, and high schools (25) to have Action Teams for Partnerships (ATPs). Each school writes and implements its plans to engage all families and community partners to increase student success. This year, District Leaders selected a **theme—*Improve Student Attendance***—that all schools addressed as one part of their *One-Year Action Plans for Partnerships*.

For example, **Robinson Elementary School** earned NNPS National Recognition for developing and implementing 4 ways to encourage and improve student attendance. *Attendance Bulletin Board* identifies students with excellent attendance; friendly competition with a nearby school results in a monthly *High-Attendance Pizza Party*; weekly *Traveling Trophies* are displayed in six high-attendance classrooms; and *Information for Parents* is provided on policies and reasons for good attendance. See the district website at <https://www.psd1.org/departments/k-12-education-supports/student-supports/attendance> and Robinson Elementary's action teamwork at <https://robinson.psd1.org/student-family-resources/action-team-for-partnerships>.

3. **INFORMATION and QUESTIONS FOR and FROM NNPS Professional Development Partners.** Esmeralda Valencia, Parent Engagement Coordinator, Pasco School District (WA) wants to know: **Does YOUR district or organization support an official, on-going, ONLINE SCHOOL for students to learn from home?** In Pasco, there is [Internet Pasco Academy of Learning \(ipal\)](#). If you have an online school, send a note and link to Esmeralda at evalencia@psd1.org

INPUT—INPUT—INPUT

1. Do you want to share a best partnership practice from your state, region, district, organization, or schools? Let NNPS know so that we can give your work National Recognition.
2. Are you working to solve a 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.
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 connect to *Talk Time with Brenda* (next on November 17 from 2-3 pm on TEAMS at [Join the meeting now](#)). Brenda loves to talk partnerships.
4. Do you have an idea, new information, or a question to share with other Professional Development Partners in the next **Leadership Line**? Send to nnps@jhu.edu.



**NNPS gives thanks for the work of our
Professional Development Partners!
Have a happy and tasty holiday!**

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

Joyce L. Epstein
Co-Director, NNPS

Steven B. Sheldon
Co-Director, NNPS

Brenda G. Thomas
NNPS Senior Facilitator