

NNPS Calendar of Professional Development Activities

2026-27 School Year

NNPS conducts a series of formal workshops to prepare state, district, region, and organization leaders to plan, conduct, and improve their leadership on partnership programs in their offices and in all schools.

NNPS also provides on-going support—"on-call" Q & A, resources, and references—to enable *Professional Development Partners* at all policy levels to continually improve their knowledge and skills to conduct effective and equitable programs of school, family, and community partnerships.

NNPS Professional Development Activities

I. Prepare Leaders with Knowledge and Skills to Conduct Research-Based Programs of School, Family, and Community Partnerships

1. *Awareness Session: Overview of Research on Partnerships—NNPS Program Components*

Thursday, September 17, 2026 2-4 p.m. EDT

Thursday, January 21, 2027 2-4 p.m. EST

Awareness Sessions are conducted twice during the school year. The presentation, activities, and discussion orient leaders and their colleagues in districts, regions, states, and organizations to the basic components of research-based programs of family and community engagement. Q & A (2-hours; 2-4 p.m.)

Who should attend? *Awareness Sessions* are for all colleagues, supervisors, and other partners who want or need to know how NNPS guides the development of high-quality programs of school, family, and community partnerships. This includes new leaders who are hired or added to leadership roles in the past year. There is no extra cost for leaders to bring their colleagues and partners to NNPS workshops. By attending an NNPS *Awareness Session*, educators and parents will be able to talk knowledgeably about research-based partnership programs.

2. *Leadership Institute for District, Organization, and State Leaders for Partnerships*

The *Institute* discusses Leadership Roles, Responsibilities, and Strategies for strong and sustainable leadership for partnerships at the district, region, state, and organization levels. Leaders are guided to create a plan that identifies their *leadership* and *facilitation* activities for their partnership programs. These details ensure a strong leadership office, support for the official policy on partnerships, and show how all schools will be "coached" or facilitated to engage all parents as partners in their children's education. Q & A (3-hours; 2-5 p.m.).

Thursday, October 15, 2026 2-5 p.m. EDT

Thursday, February 18, 2027 2-5 p.m. EST

NNPS intensive Leadership Institutes are conducted twice during the school year. The presentations and activities prepare leaders for partnerships to use research-based structures and processes to guide all schools' Action Teams for Partnerships (ATPs) to develop excellent and equitable programs of family and community engagement for student success in school.

Leaders for Partnerships will be able to select and customize strategies to guide their schools—preschools, elementary, middle, and high schools—to strengthen and continually improve goal-linked programs of family and community engagement for student success in school.

Leadership Institutes precede the workshop for school-based Action Teams for Partnership (ATPs). District leaders must organize their own responsibilities and activities, including how and when they will guide school teams to conduct partnership programs with their own students' families.

3. NNPS Team-Training Workshop for Schools' Action Teams for Partnerships (ATPs)

Thursday, November 12, 2026

1 - 4 p.m. EST

Thursday, March 18, 2027

1 - 4 p.m. EDT

School-based Action Teams for Partnerships (ATPs) include teachers, parents, administrators, and others—key partners in students' education. High school ATPs also include 1-2 students. NNPS *Team-Training Workshops* for school ATPs introduce the “basics” for research-based programs to engage *all families in ways that support student learning and development*.

In NNPS, schools plan, implement, and continually improve goal-linked partnership programs for student learning and development. Every school is different. Each ATP must plan its own partnership program. However, all programs focus on reaching goals for student success.

District leaders attend this workshop *with* one or more (or all) of their schools' ATPs. Leaders will “coach” or “facilitate” their schools' teams to continually improve their partnership programs and engage all families at all grade levels in ways that contribute to student success in school.

Topics include: Use the framework of six types of engagement; understand challenges to reach all families; focus partnership practices on academic and behavioral results for students; create a welcoming school climate; take an action team approach; and write a *One-Year Action Plan for Partnerships*. Q & A (3-hours; 1:00 - 4 p.m.)

II. Support Leaders for Partnerships to Continually Improve Program Quality Knowledge-building, Networking and Support

Let's Talk About Partnerships

Leaders come together to meet each other, share best practices, discuss and solve emerging challenges, and ask important questions (1½ hours; 2-3:30 p.m.)

Thursday, August 27, 2026

Meet each other; 1st meeting of the year

Thursday, May 6, 2027

End-of-year celebrations; final meeting of the year

Let's Learn More About Partnerships

The NNPS research team will present and discuss important topics in research and tested practice for more effective and more equitable school, family, and community partnerships. Prior research topics (e.g., family engagement to improve students' reading, math, attendance, and other outcomes) were recorded. NNPS Professional Development Partners may “attend” these workshops online at no cost. This year, topics may include Principals' Roles in Strong Partnerships; Reaching Out to Engage ALL Families; Engaging Grandparents; or other topics requested by NNPS Professional Development Partners in districts, regions, organizations, and states. (2-hours; 2-4 p.m.)

Thursday, December 10, 2026

Topics to be decided with

Thursday, April 8, 2027

Professional Development Partners

ALL YEAR: NNPS Communications and Support for Professional Development Partners

- ***Leadership Line***

Monthly. The NNPS newsletter, *Leadership Line*, is sent at the end of each month's Professional Development Activities. Each issue includes:

Recordings of workshops, summaries of promising practices, and good ideas.

NATIONAL RECOGNITION. NNPS shines a spotlight on good work conducted by an NNPS Professional Development Partner.

- “On-Call” Q & A

NNPS welcomes questions at any time from Professional Development Partners about emerging challenges, requests for resources or references (nnps@jhu.edu).