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## National Network of Partnership Schools (NNPS)

### 2020 October E-Brief for Schools in NNPS

#### Learning Must Go On!

The COVID-19 pandemic is still around.  
School must go on—we can't lose ground.  
Whether lessons are virtual, hybrid, or face-to-face,  
With great teaching and partnerships, learning takes place!

The 20-21 school year will bring exciting new partnerships to all sites in NNPS, even in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic! We are happy to continue monthly NNPS *E-Briefs* for school members and for districts, organizations, and states. Each month's *E-Brief* includes timely information to support leadership for partnerships and schools' programs of family and community engagement.

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#### REMINDER: Still time to submit your 2020 UPDATE

Most NNPS members submitted their 2020 UPDATES to evaluate their program's progress and renew membership for the 20-21 school year. THANK YOU! UPDATE is an important part of the NNPS emphasis on evaluating progress and writing the next One-Year Action Plan for Partnerships.

Please note: NNPS pays a matching fee for every member who renews membership. We are here to help you with your work. Send in your UPDATE now to continue monthly E-Briefs and all member benefits and services through the 20-21 school year. At this critical time for good partnerships, do not be "cut" from on-going services, resources, and support!

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#### PROMISING PARTNERSHIP PRACTICES 2020: Inspiring

## Activities

The new NNPS e-Book of *Promising Partnership Practices 2020* is on the website. You will see why school, family, and community partnerships are imperative during the COVID-19 crisis. See the easy link on the homepage at [www.partnershipschoools.org](http://www.partnershipschoools.org) or click here [2020 Promising Partnership Practices](#).

As the opening poem recognizes, COVID-19 is still around, and schools, districts, organizations and states must adjust partnership practices for safe and healthy teaching and family engagement. Take a look! You can adapt these effective practices to meet the needs in your school, district, and state.

Contact NNPS to discuss ideas to meet the needs of your school, district, state, or organization during the COVID-19 crisis.

**NOTE: Prior books of *Promising Partnership Practices from 2008 to 2019*** are available to members on the NNPS website in the section Success Stories. Over 700 goal-linked activities have been reported to engage parents and community partners in ways that contribute to students' academic and behavioral success in school. Use your **Members-Only Access Code, mem20NNPS** for access to all of these ideas.

**Also—ALL 18 goal-linked NNPS Samplers** are in the same section of the website for members to explore using the **Members-Only Code**.

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## CENTER ON SCHOOL, FAMILY, AND COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS:

### Focus on Transition from the Middle Grades to High School

The National Network of Partnership Schools (NNPS) is one project in our Center on School, Family, and Community Partnerships at Johns Hopkins University (CSFCP). The Center supports research projects on several topics and an international network (INET) of scholars from many countries. We are in progress on reconfiguring the website for CSFCP, but one section is ready for viewing.

Over the past 5 years, researchers conducted a project in collaboration with Seattle Public Schools—*Engaging Families in High School Success* (EFHSS). The study was led by our colleague Dr. Martha MacIver (Principal Investigator), along with Drs. Steve Sheldon, Doug Mac Iver, and Joyce Epstein (Co-PIs). Dr. M. MacIver and Dr. Sheldon developed a webinar on the results of this project. They summarized what was learned about the importance of school programs of family engagement when students make the transition from middle school to high school—from grade 8 to grade 9. See this excellent, informative [webinar](#).

The website for the [EFHSS Project](#) includes many family engagement resources that were developed throughout the five years of the project. Click the link to explore.

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NNPS guides leaders for partnerships at all levels to encourage 2-way communications for strong programs of family and community engagement. This year, this new section of E-Brief will give you an opportunity to do just that. In the September E-Brief, we posted:

*NNPS wants to know how ATP chairs, co-chairs, and district, organization leaders are keeping schools' ATP members connected, communicating, and working together whether your school doors are open for face-to-face classes, continuing remote learning, and/or on a hybrid schedule. Send your good ideas and we will share them in E-Brief!*

This month, we heard from **Latorsha M. Murray, NNPS Key Contact in Richland County School District One, Columbia, South Carolina**. She shared this news during our on-going technical assistance phone call:

In Richland One, many departments are working together to ensure our families are equipped and ready for eLearning. For example, Parent and Family Engagement Specialists worked with School Social Workers to make home visits to check in with parents and students who are experiencing difficulties with e-Learning. During the home visits, everyone follows protective protocols with masks and social distancing.

We also conducted a small group workshop with foster parents and a school technology staff member to help them understand the software that their children were using in their e-Learning lessons. Again, everyone followed protocols for health and safety.

Let us hear from you about effective partnership strategies and tips that are helping your program during the COVID-19 crisis. We are looking forward to hearing from you before the next E-Brief. Contact Brenda, at [bthomas@jhu.edu](mailto:bthomas@jhu.edu).

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## NNPS and SOCIAL MEDIA

Johns Hopkins University (JHU) links to NNPS in various ways. See the JHU site on COVID-19 information. See coverage of the NNPS e-Book, *Promising Partnership Practices 2020*, in the section on [Resources for School Districts](#). Also, the School of Education at JHU shared *Promising Partnership Practices 2020*, in its newsletter.

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## VIRTUAL TRAVEL: OHIO STATEWIDE WORKSHOPS ON PARTNERSHIPS

Dr. Joyce Epstein took some virtual trips to Ohio to provide intensive training to

regional and district leaders for partnerships and to over 30 school-based Action Teams for Partnerships. The workshops were attended by participants in Cohort 1 of the ambitious project conducted by the Ohio Statewide Family Engagement Center (OhSFEC) at The Ohio State University. This project, funded by the U.S. Department of Education—one of 12 state centers—aims to show how collaborative work by regional and district leaders for partnerships can scale up the number of schools using research-based approaches with NNPS to strengthen and sustain their programs. Representatives from 16 regions throughout the state, 16 districts in Cohort 1, and 32 of their schools are conducting goal-linked partnerships to increase the engagement of all families in ways that contribute to student success in school.

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## OHIO STATE FAMILY ENGAGEMENT CENTER SUMMIT AND VIDEOS

See information from the OhSFEC in its Digital Newsletters on important topics and useful practices of school, family, and community partnerships at [OhSFEC Digital Newsletters](#). The recent edition includes presentations from the OhSFEC summit, *Engaging Families in Mental Health Supports and Well-being of the Whole Child*. See YouTube videos on [Trauma-informed Approaches to Partnering with Families](#), [Partnerships to Support the Mental Health of Students and Families](#), and [Family Engagement Through Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports \(PBIS\)](#).

NNPS is on Facebook and Twitter. You will see interesting items from members and from NNPS in this space. This month, see more photos from *Promising Partnership Practices 2020* submissions.

We use NNPS Facebook as a networking tool. Please send photos of virtual, hybrid, or face-to-face partnership activities during the COVID-19 pandemic. Include a short description and your name and affiliation to Rachel Chappell at [nnps@jhu.edu](mailto:nnps@jhu.edu). Rachel will select some to add to NNPS's Facebook page.

Like us on Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/partnershipschools>  
Follow us on twitter [https://twitter.com/NNPS\\_JHU](https://twitter.com/NNPS_JHU)

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## OPPORTUNITIES AND RESOURCES

NNPS partner, Francis Marion University and the Center of Excellence (FMU-COE) revised its annual Summer Institute (previously “in person”) to a virtual conference, 2020 Virtual Summer Institute Series, and an on-going fall collection of keynote presentations on teaching students whose families have low incomes, and strengthening programs of school, family, and community partnerships. See the Summer-Plus Professional Learning Series and registration requirements (\$25 for more than 20 presentations) dozens of presentations at [Summer-Plus Professional Learning Series](#).

**National PTA COVID-19 PTA Resources.** The PTA is sharing information and examples of activities to engage parents in supporting students' social and emotional development, health and safety, and learning at home. Also, see reports from PTAs across the country. [National PTA COVID-19 PTA Resources](#)

**U. S. Department of Education – COVID-19.** This site includes links to CDC and federal policy information concerning COVID-19: [U. S. Department of Education – COVID-19](#)

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## NNPS Members-Only Access Code

The MEMBERS ONLY section of the NNPS website provides active members with special benefits. Use your **Members-Only Access Code: mem20NNPS** to explore many years' books of *Promising Partnership Practices* and all 18 NNPS *Samplers* in the section Success Stories. The code will change in January 2021 for members who renewed membership for the 20-21 school year. We will keep you posted in each E-Brief of the code to use.

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## DONATE TO NNPS

If you make end-of-year tax-deductible donations to non-profit organizations in 2020, please consider NNPS. Your donation supports NNPS's unique projects—books of *Promising Partnership Practices*, *Partnership Awards*, monthly *E-Briefs*, Annual Evaluations, and our excellent website. Here's how: Click the Donate link. Then, click on "OTHER" in the Johns Hopkins School of Education DESIGNATION box. **Specify: National Network of Partnership Schools.**

### **Donate!**

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

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Joyce

**In Partnership,  
The NNPS Team  
Brenda, Rachel, Steve, and**

