**National Network of Partnership Schools Model in Ohio**

The Ohio State University recently received funding to open a new . This Center is creating and gathering training and resources for family engagement for Ohio schools and families. One training for schools available in 2020 is an evidence-based family engagement model, the . This model has been implemented and researched around the globe and leads to increased, impactful family engagement that supports student learning at the elementary, middle and high school levels. The Statewide Family Engagement Center is partnering with State Support Teams to recruit 48 Ohio school districts over the next three years to receiving training and coaching support for a district leader and two school teams from the district. We wanted to share with you the reasoning behind the selection of this model, and to let you know the timeline and supports for implementing this model if you are interested in doing so.

One district in each region will be selected to begin implementing the model in 2020. Another district will be selected this year to be a waitlist comparison for the first district, but will begin implementation in 2021. A third district will begin implementation in 2022. Although all schools have the opportunity to join or renew their NNPS membership at any time, over the next few years, the three cohorts of districts will benefit from additional supports and will participate in a study of the NNPS model in Ohio.

*Why is this evidence-based model needed in Ohio?*

* Many schools implement family engagement strategies without embedding their strategies within their overall school improvement plan. Or, they are frustrated with feeling disconnected from their families and the community as a whole. Many schools would like to understand the process of systematically embedding family engagement into their school system, and have tools, strategies, and technical assistance to improve their partnerships with families.
* When research-based strategies are used by schools, family engagement has been linked to improved student attendance, test scores, reduced teacher turnover, and an overall positive school climate.

*What are the expected outcomes of implementing the model?*

* Schools will have a sustainable team with family representatives who can help support their partnerships program. Schools will have access to many technical assistance resources and will be in a network of districts within the state implementing the model.
* Schools will develop one-year plans each year that they decide to implement the model, and will track their implementation and effectiveness, and will become more sophisticated at leveraging/braiding together funding to support partnerships.
* School staff and families will feel supported and will engage in more effective partnerships to support student academic success. Students will notice more compatibility between home and school, and will show improved attendance and test scores.

*What is the model and what does it entail?*

* The National Network of Partnerships Schools model entails assembling a team of school staff and families that will together: attend an NNPS training by Joyce Epstein, create one-year plans for partnerships aligned to school improvement plans, and work to implement the plans with school staff and families and track results.
* By becoming a member of NNPS, schools will have access to a plethora of other resources, which are outlined on the .

*What will districts and schools be expected to do?*

**2019-2020 School Year**

Schools and Districts will become members of NNPS (first year district memberships funded by Ohio’s Statewide Family Engagement Center), receive district leader training and school team training for one Elementary School and one Middle/High School in Ohio (additional schools may be trained, but will not be part of the study). Districts will receive coaching support from their regional state support team office to create an action plan, begin implementing it, and participate in the research data collection tasks (teacher and family surveys, other tools to track the school’s practices).

**2020-2021 School Year**

Renew membership from NNPS, receive additional training in Ohio, continue receiving coaching support to refine your action plan, continue implementing it, and participate in the research data collection tasks (teacher and family surveys, other tools to track the school’s practices).

**2021-2022 School Year**

Renew membership from NNPS, receive additional training in Ohio, continue receiving coaching support to refine your action plan, continue implementing it, and participate in the research data collection tasks (teacher and family surveys, other tools to track the school’s practices). Schools and districts will have the option to sustain their membership in NNPS and strengthen their partnerships.

*What supports are available if my district implements the model?*

* Ohio’s Statewide Family Engagement Center is funding the first year of membership for the National Network of Partnerships Schools for each district that is recruited to participate in one of the three cohorts.
* Each district recruited will work closely with a coach at their regional ODE state support team office who will be trained in the NNPS model in Fall 2019.
* Additional training and technical assistance will be available as needed from NNPS and Ohio’s Statewide Family Engagement Center.

For more information about or support from Ohio’s Statewide Family Engagement Center at The Ohio State University, contact or reach out to Barbara Boone directly at or 614-688-2259. Thank you for all that you do for Ohio children and their families.