

OhSFEC COACHES MID-YEAR MEETING

OHIO Sets a Huge Agenda for Regional Coaches:

Improve Programs of Family and Community Engagement
for Student Success in
Low-Performing High Schools
and Drop Out Prevention and Recovery (DOPR) Schools

JANUARY 8, 2026
10:45 – 11:45 a.m.

Joyce L. Epstein, PhD.
Co-Director, NNPS



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OhSFEC Regional Coaches

Part 1. What are we talking about today?
What are your questions on the HUGE agenda?

Part 2. What does research say:
How can family and community engagement advance this agenda?
How YOU can use research-based structures and processes to help YOUR schools organize their programs of family engagement?.

Part 3. A few exemplary family and community engagement activities to meet the Ohio challenge.

Part 4. Q & A

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Part 1. What are we talking about today?
Yes, It IS a BIG-WIDE-DEEP agenda!



Tell your ELBOW PARTNER: What is ONE QUESTION you have about how family and community engagement can increase student success in high schools and DOPR schools in YOUR REGION?

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Part 1. What are we talking about today?

Facts from the REAL WORLD!

Student Success. . .

- Starts in preschool, kng., and primary grades.
- **Requires excellent teaching—in all schools, all grades, all subjects, for all students.**
- Requires dropout **PREVENTION** and thoughtful **ACTION** for student progress and yearly promotion.

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Part 1. What are we talking about today?
...MORE Facts from the REAL WORLD!

Teachers

Teaching school subjects is the teacher's job—not the parents' jobs.

Good teachers motivate all students to learn.

Parents

Parents are partners in their children's education at all grade levels with age-appropriate engagement activities. Parents want clear, timely, useful information.

Students

Students are the "learners" — the school's responsibility. Students want to develop their talents—their worth / value.

STUDENTS are key to the success of ALL partnership activities and ALL school programs.

What can YOU do if these facts are ignored in your region, district(s), or schools?

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PART 2
What does research say?

The **GOOD NEWS** is that countless studies confirm that well-organized, **GOAL-LINKED** partnership programs produce significant, positive results for students, for parents, and for teachers and schools.

Significant measurable results of **GOAL-LINKED** family and community engagement on student:

- Attendance
- Reading skills and attitudes
- Math skills and attitudes
- Earned course credits
- High school graduation and other outcomes.

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What does research say?
Confirmed results across studies. . .

**IMPROVE STUDENT ATTENDANCE
REDUCE CHRONIC ABSENCE**

- Not “one way”
- Comprehensive, creative, responsive approaches
- Activities for teachers, counselors, family members, community partners, and the STUDENTS.
 - Information for Families and Students
 - Communications, E-Notes, “Nudges” to Families and Students
 - Recognition, Celebration
 - Home Visits
 - Business Rewards for Improved Attendance

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What does research say. . . ?
Confirmed results across studies. . .

IMPROVE READING SKILLS AND ATTITUDES

Family engagement at home that supports reading, literacy, and language arts improves student achievement . . .

- at all grade levels
- across family racial, ethnic, and socioeconomic backgrounds.

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What does research say. . . ?
Confirmed results across studies. . .
IMPROVE MATH SKILLS AND ATTITUDES

Across grade levels, students do better on math achievement tests, math report card grades, take more math classes, and earn more math credits if their parents or family partners:

- Talk with them about school and math at home.
- Hold high expectations for children’s success.
- Parents need easy to follow activities to talk with their children and teens about math, and to encourage them to build math skills and positive attitudes about math.
- See also, studies of TIPS Math in the middle grades.

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**NNPS Quarterly
Knowledge-Building Sessions**
Let’s Learn More about Partnerships

- Summary of research
- Examples of best practices

- Attendance — *Leadership Line #3:* <https://youtu.be/d6vWinGfpC8>
- Reading — *Leadership Line #4:* <https://youtu.be/TW57HlapkL4>
- Math — *Leadership Line #7:* <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JKntxkV7-ik>

You can attend these sessions at any time via the recordings.

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Drop Out Prevention and Recovery Schools (DOPR)
Challenging, but Not Mysterious

Students in DOPR schools are, typically:

- Older (age 16-24)
- Failed in middle and/or high school
- May be parents, themselves
- May live independently OR with family
- May have been adjudicated in juvenile court system

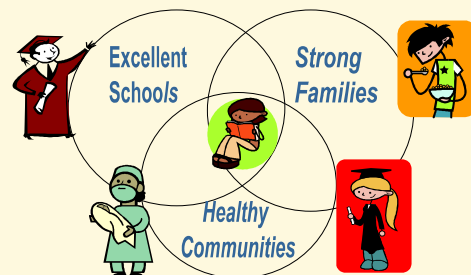
ULTIMATE GOAL. Improve students quality of life, relationships, future plans. Focus on:

- Students’ starting skills
- Individual and family dreams for the future
- Emerging talents
- Contributions to the school, family, and community

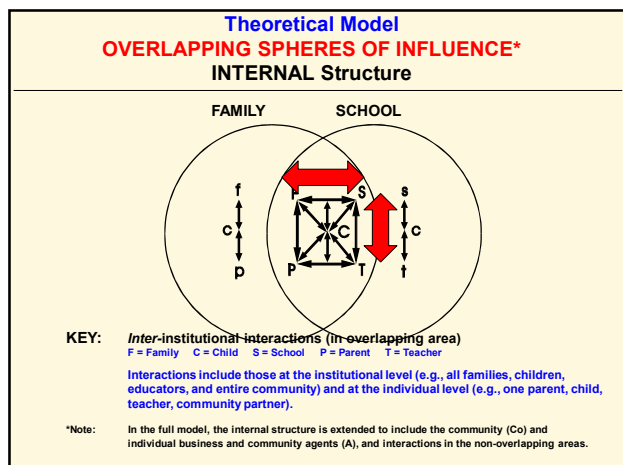
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**YOU can use NNPS Research-Based Approaches for
GOAL-LINKED
Partnership Programs**

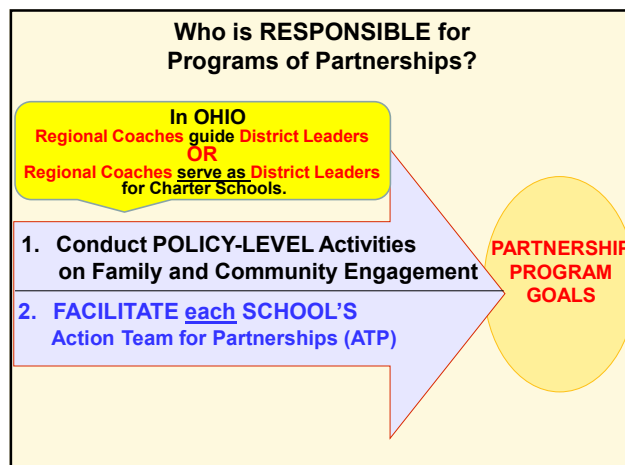
**Theoretical Model:
Overlapping Spheres of Influence
EXTERNAL Structure**



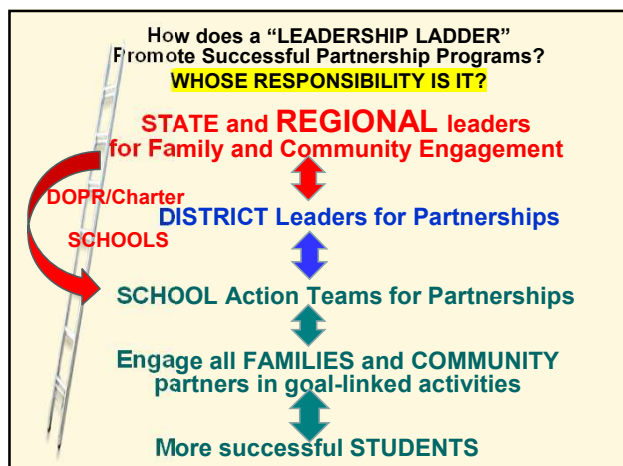
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- 1. LEADERSHIP ACTIVITIES**
What might YOU—as COACH for Partnerships—do for YOUR REGION AS A WHOLE?
- ☐ 1. Review and support the official policy on family engagement
 - ☐ 2. Conduct staff development on partnerships
 - ☐ 3. Make presentations on partnerships for the public
 - ☐ 4. Update partnership information on your website
 - ☐ 5. Coordinate an Advisory Council on family and community engagement
 - ☐ 6. Collect and share best practices across districts and schools
 - ☐ 7. What OTHER LEADERSHIP on partnerships DO YOU (or COULD YOU) conduct as a REGIONAL COACH?

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- 2. FACILITATION ACTIVITIES**
YOU may COACH your District Leaders for Partnerships OR YOU MUST FACILITATE YOUR Charter Schools
- ☐ 1. Conduct NNPS Team-Training Workshop for school-base Action Teams for Partnerships (ATPs).
 - ☐ 2. Make weekly, biweekly, OR monthly contact with schools' ATPs to check how things are going...what is planned...how activities succeeded.
 - ☐ 3. Hold quarterly meetings with school team leaders to share best practices or solve challenges.
 - ☐ 4. Meet annually with each school principal to discuss the ATP, the school's partnership program, and your role as FACILITATOR.
 - ☐ 5. Convene an End-of-Year Celebration for all schools to share best practices, discuss challenges, and write next plans.
 - ☐ 6. Help schools evaluate each engagement activity, and annual progress on partnerships.
 - ☐ 7. What OTHER FACILITATION activities might you conduct with all districts and all schools?

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- School, Family, and Community Partnership Programs**
- As a REGIONAL COACH for Family and Community Engagement, YOUR SCHOOLS (including DOPR) will improve if you guide each one to:
- * Form an Action Team for Partnerships
 - * Write a Goal-Linked Plan for partnerships
 - * Implement, evaluate, and continually improve their plans and practices.
- NNPS and OhSFEC provide useful workshops and modules to help you guide your schools.
- Use the SPRING TERM (2026) to prepare YOUR schools for the 2026-27 school year.

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Part 3. A Few Exemplary Practices

Schools in NNPS have been working to increase student success with research-based partnership programs and practices.

Here are a few examples.

Think about the “real world” facts we outlined first, this morning.

How do the following activities address requirements for successful partnership programs?

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A Few Exemplary Practices in NNPS Middle Schools

Parent-Teacher-Student Conferences and Student-Led Parent-Teacher Conferences
Many Middle Schools Across the Country

TIPS Transitions
4 take home activities for 8th graders to talk with a parent about the transition to high school (attendance, credits, clubs, etc.)
Seattle WA
(Free on NNPS website)

Tableaux Museum
Black History Figures
Reports and Dramatization for Parents/Community
Columbia, SC

Student Leadership.
All students serve as leaders (e.g., student principal, counselors, media team, mentors, community liaisons, etc.)
Columbia, SC

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A Few Exemplary Practices in NNPS High Schools

ARTS Night and Show Your Shop Day
Every student displays, discusses, or demonstrates an art or shop item
Groton, Hartford, Middletown, Manchester, CT

Take What You Need
Free school supplies and personal hygiene items. Available every day/all year.
Columbia, SC

College and career plans, and FAFSA forms.
Saginaw, MI

High School CREDITS EARNED CREDITS NEEDED
Freshmen, Sophomores, Juniors, Seniors with a family partner.
Several High Schools

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A Few Exemplary Practices in NNPS High Schools

Community Problem Solving
Student Philanthropy

Tell your ELBOW PARTNER. . .
Which exemplary practice would work well in a school in YOUR REGION? Why?

Share a good example of family or community engagement in a high school in your REGION.

Alumni connections to share experiences with students on various paths to success
2-year, 4-year college
Military, career paths

See 10+ years of books of *Promising Partnership Practices* on the NNPS website, www.partnershipschoools.org in the section Success Stories.

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Part 4 Final Q & A

MY QUESTION FOR YOU:
Tell your ELBOW PARTNER. . .

What did you hear today that YOU can use in YOUR REGION to help SCHOOLS improve programs of family and community engagement for student success?

Your Questions for NNPS and OhSFE?

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NNPS PUBLICATIONS

Corwin Press
4th Edition, 2019
SCHOOL, FAMILY, AND COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS
YOUR HORIZON FOR ACTION
FOURTH EDITION
JOYCE L. EPSTEIN and ASSOCIATES

Corwin Press
2009
PRINCIPALS Matter
A Guide to School, Family, and Community Partnerships
Mandi C. Sanders • Steven B. Strickland

Taylor and Francis
2012
Multicultural Partnerships
Involve All Families
Joyce L. Epstein and Steven B. Strickland

Taylor and Francis
2nd Edition, 2015
Family Reading Night
Barry K. Richlin • Patricia Goodrich • Joyce L. Epstein
SECOND EDITION

Taylor & Francis
3rd Edition, 2023
SCHOOL, FAMILY, AND COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS
Preparing, Educating, and Inspiring Schools
Third Edition
JOYCE L. EPSTEIN and STEVEN B. STRICKLAND

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**NNPS PUBLICATIONS
on our website**

NNPS E-Books  PROMISING PARTNERSHIP PRACTICES 2023 An annual collection from the members of the National Network of Partnership Schools Johns Hopkins University Edited by Brenda K. Thomas, Joyce L. Epstein, and the Staff	NNPS (18 Booklets)  SAMPLERS Summary of Research & Sample Engagement Activities READING, MATH SCIENCE, WRITING ARTS, HEALTH, ATTENDANCE, BEHAVIOR, HOMEWORK, TRANSITIONS, FATHERS COLLEGE and CAREERS, PRESCHOOLS, MIDDLE SCHOOLS, HIGH SCHOOLS, GRANDPARENTS, SUMMER LEARNING, TESTS & ASSESSMENTS	NNPS Materials  Interactive Homework Elem Literacy K-3 Math K-5 Middle Grades Language Arts 6-8 Science 6-8 Math 6-8 See TIPS RESOURCES on the NNPS website
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**NATIONAL NETWORK OF
Partnership Schools**
JOHNS HOPKINS UNIVERSITY

www.partnershipschools.org

Dr. Joyce L. Epstein, Co-Director jepstein@jhu.edu

Center on School, Family, and Community Partnerships

Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, Maryland

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