

# Catch the Buzz ...



**A Partnership Team for Student Success in Special Education** addresses topics for all students in all grades. Create a Partnership Team in your District to include high school students, parents, educators, school administrators, and community service providers.



**NH Connections is a** project funded by the NH Department of Education, Bureau of Special Education to provide support to educators, parents, and service providers in their efforts to improve educational outcomes while meeting the unique needs of all students.

NH Connections offers facilitation services, technical assistance, and professional development to establish and sustain partnerships in school districts and local school communities.

Through Regional Support Networks, district partnerships share and exchange knowledge and experiences.



## WHAT DO WE KNOW from U.S. and international studies of family and community involvement in schools?

- Parents vary in how much they presently are involved.
- *Parents are very concerned about their children's success in school.*
- Students need multiple sources of support to succeed in school and in life.
- *Schools must reach out in order to involve all families.*
- Some teachers and administrators are initially resistant to increasing family involvement.
- *Teachers and administrators in schools and districts need pre-service and in-service education to strengthen and sustain goal-linked programs of family and community involvement.*
- Subject-specific practices involve families in ways that directly assist students' learning and success.
- *Partnership programs are most effective if they are research based, customized for each community, evaluated, and continually improved.*

## NCLB gives the following examples of involvement activities.

- Conduct workshops for parents on student attendance, family literacy, and other topics.
- Communicate with all families in clear language, parent-teacher conferences, report on children's progress.
- Organize volunteers to allow opportunities to volunteer, observe in classrooms, other.
- Help students improve homework completion to increase achievement.
- Involve parents in decisions, writing plans, reviewing policy.
- Involve business and community partners.

**Notice the alignment of the 6 Types of Parent Involvement in Schools (below).**

## NH CONNECTIONS IS GROUNDED IN THE WORK OF JOYCE EPSTEIN through NNPS, NATIONAL NETWORK OF PARTNERSHIP SCHOOLS.

### WHAT CAN THIS MEAN TO SCHOOL DISTRICTS AND SPECIAL EDUCATION?

Identify the needs of the school families and students through the lens of the 6 types of parent involvement utilizing the Parent Involvement Survey.

1. Parent education
2. Communication
3. Volunteering

4. Learning at Home
5. Decision making
6. Collaborating with the community

**Call your Regional Support Network facilitator to schedule a presentation on "Creating Healthy Schools through the 6 Types of Parent Involvement". Then, learn how your school can partner to create action plans to address topics in special education.**

# RSNs at NHC

Regional Support Networks are working for you, schools and families on topics in special education! Call your RSN facilitator to find out how you, too, can be involved.

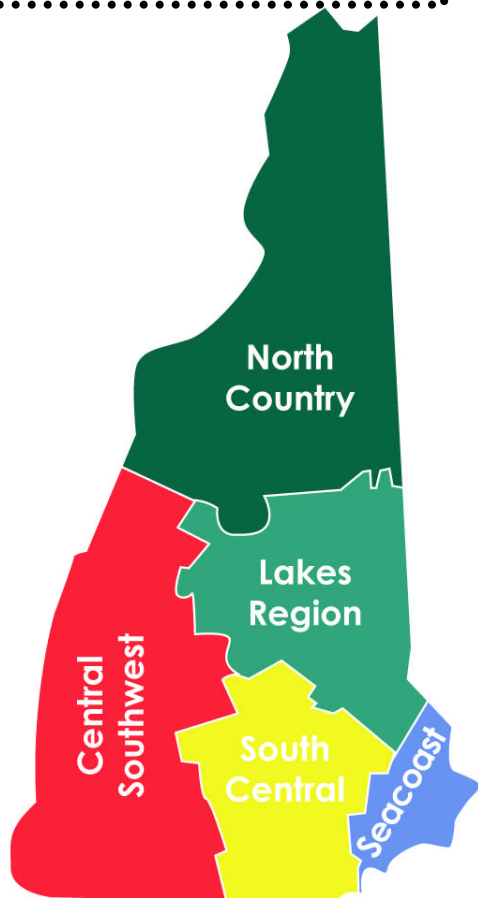
[www.nhconnections.org](http://www.nhconnections.org)

Visit [www.partnershipschoools.org](http://www.partnershipschoools.org) for recent research summaries supporting parent involvement in schools.

Together, we can make a difference.

## NH CONNECTIONS STAFF

Deborah A. Rosato  
Director, NH Connections  
800.947.7005 in NH 603.224.7005 ext. 35 or  
603.848.4204  
[drosato@picnh.org](mailto:drosato@picnh.org)



# Creating partnerships

in special education is not new. IEP team members are partners. Creating a team at the district level is new! Teams can advance the work of those who are immersed in special education topics. Partnership Teams for Student Success in Special Education increases student success by including the support of families, educators, and the community to ensure the exchange of current knowledge.

Dover School District began with a kick-off event of a Family Involvement Day held at the school. Leadership partners planned a day of fun and learning with teachers and parents of students in special education.

Dresden/Hanover offered a workshop on "Understanding IEPs". *"I just wanted to email to THANK YOU for the workshop on IEPs. I let the Supt. know that I thought the presentation was very informative and that the presenter did an excellent job. I'll also let the West Special Ed Directors know about your workshops."* Joanne Roberts Assistant Superintendent for Student Services.

Visit [www.nhconnections.blogspot.com](http://www.nhconnections.blogspot.com) for promising practices in NH.

## Region Facilitators

Marlene Marchand  
North Country  
603.466.2089  
[mmarchand@picnh.org](mailto:mmarchand@picnh.org)

Audrey Burke  
Concord/Lakes  
603.860.7015  
[aburke@picnh.org](mailto:aburke@picnh.org)

Liz Macdonald  
Central/South West  
603. 866.3111  
[lmacdonald@picnh.org](mailto:lmacdonald@picnh.org)

Kyle Szczepanik  
Seacoast  
603.978.6651  
[kszczepanik@picnh.org](mailto:kszczepanik@picnh.org)

Joe Hatch  
South Central  
603. 848.4251  
[jhatch@picnh.org](mailto:jhatch@picnh.org)

P.O. Box 2405 Concord, NH  
03302-2405  
603.224.7005  
800.947.7005  
Fax: 603.224.4365  
[www.nhconnections.org](http://www.nhconnections.org)

Moving forward for student success with family engagement ...

We are meeting where?

For your service, upcoming meetings and events are included on the Facebook page of [NH Connections](#).

Workshops offered through the Parent Information Center in collaboration with NH Connections and other partners are listed on Workshop page of the [NH Parent Information and Resource Center](#). Ask the RSN Facilitator to schedule a workshop in your district.

TIPS to create family engagement

Teachers can produce homework assignments to create conversations among family members and the student to bring the work to really mean something to the student. Connect with your families to let them know how the assignments will support parent involvement in their child's education.