

# Issue Brief



## A Monadnock Community forum

was held on October 22 at Antioch College to further understand “Parent Involvement in Special Education”.

Outcomes from questions will result in proposed action items that teams can then move forward on. Three questions were identified prior to the world café style forum.

- ✓ **One:** What outcomes do we expect from increased parent involvement in Special Education?
- ✓ **Two:** What parent involvement happens in our schools today?
- ✓ **Three:** What barriers prevent us from improving parent involvement in Special Education?

Conversations were held to address each question and each participant had the opportunity to speak about each question. Notes were captured of the discussion by the table moderators.

The comments for each question were shared and the participants then voted on what they see as priorities for proposed action items.

**The priorities of the participants for proposed action items include:**

**From question one:**

- ✓ A better understanding of the whole child from the home and school perspective.
- ✓ Working together for student achievement.
- ✓ Building relationships among partners of parents, school staff, and community members.

**From question two:**

- ✓ Parent forums
- ✓ Wrap arounds – all IEP team members convene weekly to guide direction for student success.
- ✓ Newsletter for teachers
- ✓ Good home school communication

**From question three:**

- ✓ Time for both parents and teachers due to tight schedule, lack of chances to meet
- ✓ Lack of knowledge of the special education process
- ✓ Stress for both teachers and parents.
- ✓ “Them and Us”
- ✓ How to engage parents and how to find out what they want.

**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 to meet 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 your Regional Support Network, district partnerships share and exchange knowledge and experiences.

**Monadnock forum participants included:**

5 parents/students, 3 community service providers, 13 school faculty, and 6 staff for NH Connections.

**Represented** were 3 SAUs of #s 29, 38 and 60, 7 school districts of Chesterfield, Fall Mountain, Fitzwilliam, Hinsdale, Keene, Monadnock Regional, and Troy. 8 schools were represented of Chesterfield Central School, Fall Mountain, Fitzwilliam, Hinsdale Elementary School, Keene Middle School, Monadnock Regional High School and Middle school, and Troy Elementary School.

Workshops are available through NH Connections to help to get everyone on board with family involvement!



## Where do we go from here

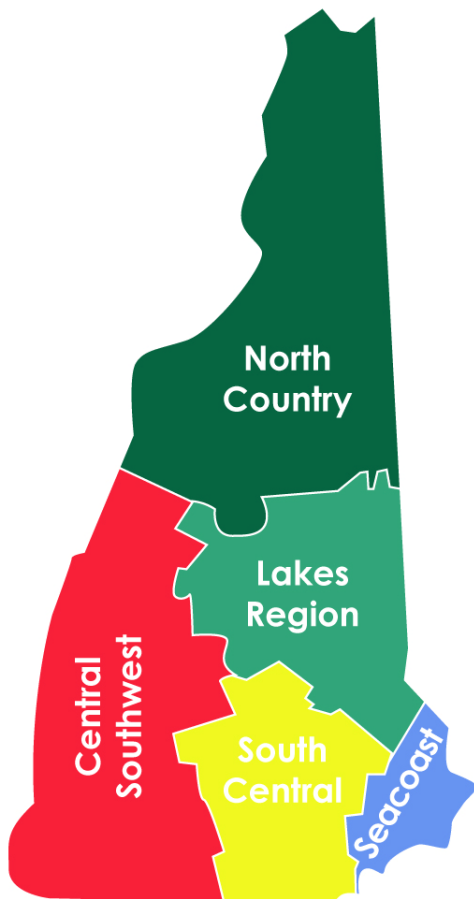
now that we understand the priorities of the partners of the proposed action items in the Monadnock Region?

Meet soon.

Develop Action Plans at the level that you and your community members feel comfortable. Develop Regional Action Plans, SAU Action Plans, District Level Action Plans or School Level Action Plans.

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## Creating partnership teams

are designed to address student achievement in all environments to meet the unique needs of all students. You and your partners state the goals. Goals are academic such as reading or math goals, behavioral goals such as increasing attendance rates or using common language across all environments (home-school-community) and partnership goals (establish, scale up and sustain your team or increase the participation response of the Parent Involvement Survey). You and your partners create action plans to meet those goals.

Contact your Regional Support Facilitator to find out how you can create great sustainable partnership teams.

<http://nhconnections.blogspot.com/>

*Moving forward for student success with family engagement ...*

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NH Connections can provide technical assistance to help establish District level Action Teams for Partners in Special Education and school level Action Teams for Partnerships.

Research based concepts are the guide to creating successful partnerships.

Call now to get started!

Develop plans, implement activities and meet requirements and expectations for effective partnership programs in No Child Left Behind – Section 1118 and IDEA. Ask your RSN facilitator for the data on how creating partnerships meet the requirements.

# NNPS

National Network of Partnership Schools is our partner.

<http://www.csos.jhu.edu/P2000/program.htm>