

## Jumping hurdles

**N**PS uses Jumping Hurdles as one of many activities in its One-Day Team Training Workshop for school-based Action Teams for Partnerships (ATP). After learning about the six types of involvement and the challenges that must be met to reach all families of students in a school, the ATPs identify a successful activity and challenges they solved to improve the practice. They learn that they are not starting at “ground zero” in their efforts to engage parents and community partners. Later in the day, when they write a full year’s Action Plan for Partnerships, the ATPs may keep their successful activities in their plans, along with other goal-linked family and community involvement activities that they add to the year-long schedule.

### DIRECTIONS

All ATPs face challenges in developing programs of school, family, and community partnerships. ATPs work to solve challenges and improve activities to reach more families, strengthen community ties, and boost students’ success.

1. List **one excellent activity** that your school presently conducts to **involve families or the community** in students’ education at home, at school, or in the community.
2. Identify **one challenge** or obstacle that your school faced in implementing this involvement activity.
3. Briefly describe how your school **solved** that challenge.
4. Note one **next step** that your school could take to make the activity **even more successful**.

### 1. ONE SUCCESSFUL FAMILY OR COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT ACTIVITY

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### 2. CHALLENGE

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### 3. SOLUTION TO THE CHALLENGE

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### 4. NEXT STEP TO IMPROVE THE ACTIVITY EVEN MORE

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## 6 types of family and community involvement

The National Network of Partnership Schools provides a framework of six types of activities that build and sustain a comprehensive program of family and community partnerships. Use the tool below to generate new ideas for your school or district.

<b>PARENTING</b>
How can you assist schools to better understand families? How can you help the schools support families in understanding child and adolescent development and in setting home conditions to support children as students?
<b>COMMUNICATING</b>
What can you do to help schools set up and sustain effective communication channels from school-to-home and from home-to-school about school programs and student progress?
<b>VOLUNTEERING</b>
When and where can you show school-based partnership teams how to organize volunteers and audiences to support the school and students? Can you help provide volunteer opportunities in various locations and at various times?
<b>LEARNING AT HOME</b>
What techniques can you share for involving families with their children’s homework and other curriculum-related activities and decisions? How can you encourage others to share their ideas for this as well?
<b>DECISION MAKING</b>
How can you encourage the inclusion of families as participants in school decisions, and the development of parent leaders and representatives at the school and district levels?
<b>COLLABORATING WITH THE COMMUNITY</b>
What resources and services from the community for families, students, and schools can you coordinate? What services can you provide to the community?

Adapted from: National Network of Partnership Schools. Available at [www.partnershipschools.org](http://www.partnershipschools.org).