

School–University Partnerships

The Journal of the
National Association for
Professional Development Schools

Volume 10, Number 3
Spring 2017

WHAT IT MEANS TO BE A PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT SCHOOL

A statement by the Executive Council and Board of Directors of the National Association for Professional Development Schools, www.napds.org, April 2008

The Nine Required Essentials of a PDS[®] are:

1. a comprehensive mission that is broader in its outreach and scope than the mission of any partner and that furthers the education profession and its responsibility to advance equity within schools and, by potential extension, the broader community;
2. a school–university culture committed to the preparation of future educators that embraces their active engagement in the school community;
3. ongoing and reciprocal professional development for all participants guided by need;
4. a shared commitment to innovative and reflective practice by all participants;
5. engagement in and public sharing of the results of deliberate investigations of practice by respective participants;
6. an articulation agreement developed by the respective participants delineating the roles and responsibilities of all involved;
7. a structure that allows all participants a forum for ongoing governance, reflection, and collaboration;
8. work by college/university faculty and P–12 faculty in formal roles across institutional settings; and
9. dedicated and shared resources and formal rewards and recognition structures.

School–University Partnerships: The Journal of the National Association for Professional Development Schools (NAPDS) is published by the NAPDS as a service to members of the Association and others concerned with partnerships between higher education and P-12 schools and their communities. For association information please refer to <http://www.napds.org>.

School–University Partnerships: The Journal of the National Association for Professional Development Schools is nationally disseminated and blind-refereed. Each issue contains articles written by both university and school educators, usually in collaboration with each other, and highlights policy and practice in the school- university partnership.

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