



Press Release

For Immediate Release

National Association for Professional Development Schools

Washington, DC— March 29, 2021 — On Sunday, March 28, 2021, The National Association for Professional Development Schools (NAPDS) announced the publication of its policy statement, *What it Means to be a Professional Development School (PDS): The Nine Essentials (2nd Edition)*. This publication is the culmination of several years' worth of work by the association's Nine Essentials Committee. The committee worked to identify the relevance of the essentials, which were originally published in 2008, and how they are used in the field by schools of education and P-12 schools. The document brings to light an updated and robust version of the Nine Essentials grounded in key concepts and educational research.

The NAPDS committee consisted of eight individuals who served as the primary authors of the document. Additionally, the committee worked with nearly 50 individuals representing both P-12 schools and universities nationwide. Through focus groups, collaborative work groups and symposia, the expertise provided by these professionals contributed greatly to the development of the final document. The publication of this report represents the beginning of the NAPDS

“Year of the Nine Essentials”. From March 2021 through February 2022, NAPDS will host monthly webinars and podcasts which will focus on strengthening P-12 school university partnerships and using the essentials to develop high quality teacher education programs.

A PDS is a reciprocal learning relationship between universities and P-12 schools based on the medical school/teaching hospital model. Teacher candidates preparing to become new teachers work side by side with mentor teachers similar to a residency in the medical field.

Founded in 2005, NAPDS is the leading national organization supporting the critical linkage between higher education and public schools for the clinical preparation of new teachers and ongoing professional development of veteran educators. The Association has members in 43 states and 6 countries.

For additional information, contact:

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NAPDS Nine Essentials website:

<https://napds.org/nine-essentials/>