



# Differentiated Assistance Communities of Practice

## *Collectively Making a Difference!*

**Santa Clara County Office of Education** is hosting three Communities of Practice (CoPs) to facilitate cross-district collaboration as LEAs work to elevate outcomes in three key areas: Suspension, Attendance, and English Language Arts (ELA).

District and/or Site improvement leaders that are interested in collaborating with others who share a common concern in one of these topics are invited to come together to fulfill both individual and group goals!

Each CoP will focus on sharing best practices and creating new knowledge to advance a domain of professional practice. Ongoing interaction and collaboration are vital to Communities of Practice.

### **Commitments:**

CoP participants will be asked to commit to attending all sessions; actively participate in the discussions, and share their successes/challenges so that all from the group can learn from their experiences.

### **Outcomes:**

Community of Practice members will:

- Discuss evidence-based practices to address the area of focus
- Learn about practices and improvement efforts in other districts
- Share/gather resources and tools

### **Dates:**

August 23, 2024 • 1:00 - 2:00 pm

November 15, 2024 • 1:00 - 3:00 pm

January 23, 2025 • 1:00 - 3:00 pm

March 20, 2025 • 1:00 - 3:00 pm

### **Location:**

1290 Ridder Park Drive  
San Jose, CA 95131

### **Participants:**

Any District/Site leaders who are working on improving outcomes for Suspension, Attendance, or English Language Arts. ANY LEA is welcome to participate. Registration is not limited to DA eligible LEAs.

### **Registration:**

<https://sccoe.to/PMCIACoPs>

*Registration required before Tuesday, August 20, 2024, for NON-DA eligible districts*

***For more information, please contact:***

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**Registration Contact: Brenda Montes • [bmontes@sccoe.org](mailto:bmontes@sccoe.org) • 408-453-4322**

# What is a Community of Practice?

## What is a Community of Practice?

- A Community of Practice (CoP) is a group of people who share a common concern, a set of problems, or a shared interest in a topic who come together to fulfill both individual and group goals.
- Communities of Practice often focus on sharing best practices and creating new knowledge to advance a domain of professional practice. Ongoing interaction and collaboration are vital to success of the group.



## What a Community of Practice isn't:

- A CoP isn't a training. While a CoP is facilitated by content experts, knowledge and discoveries come from CoP participants.

## What is the difference between a PLC, CoP & NIC?

	Professional Learning Community (PLC)	Community of Practice (CoP)	Network Improvement Community (NIC)
<b>Focus</b>	Teams of educators engage in collective inquiry of best practices in teaching and learning. They develop new skills.	Members focus on developing their practice through activities such as joint problem solving, sharing information, discussing developments, documenting projects and conducting site visits.	Researchers seek to accomplish a common, well-specified aim through a disciplined, iterative approach. Coordinated to accelerate the development and refinement of interventions and their integration into practice. (source: Carnegie)
<b>Members</b>	Educators who are committed to high levels of learning for all students. Leadership is typically provided by a principal or educational leader.	Practitioners who share concern or passion for something and they want to learn how to do it better. Leadership is typically provided by members and managers.	Researchers, practitioners, and other partners who share an interest and the capacity to create change. Leadership is typically provided a trained facilitator.
<b>Community</b>	Typically site-based where members work together to achieve common goals that enhance their classroom practice and benefit the student body as a whole.	Members do not necessarily work together on a daily basis. They build relationships that allow them to learn from each other to improve their practice.	Scientific learning communities guided by a deep understanding of the problem. The community is made up of members various communities and organizations.
<b>Culture</b>	Critical to have a collaborative, supportive school community in order to implement improved practices.	CoP nurtures a level of trust and relationship building so collaboration and knowledge sharing can occur.	Disciplined by the rigor of Improvement Science
<b>Measurement</b>	Effectiveness is based on student achievement results.	Can use quantitative and qualitative data to measure how members are changing their practice and improving performance as a result.	They seek to accomplish some clearly defined, measurable outcome.

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