

Communities of Practice

Phase	Type	Themes
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Early <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Implementation <input type="checkbox"/> Consolidation	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Strategy <input type="checkbox"/> Tool	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Collaboration & teamwork <input type="checkbox"/> Curriculum <input type="checkbox"/> Design affordances <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Design & process <input type="checkbox"/> Evaluation <input type="checkbox"/> Leadership & change <input type="checkbox"/> Pedagogy
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Professional development & support <input type="checkbox"/> School structures & organisation <input type="checkbox"/> Spatial competencies <input type="checkbox"/> Student experience <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Teacher experience <input type="checkbox"/> Technology <input type="checkbox"/> Time

What does this do?

Communities of Practice (CoP) are groups of people who share an interest and engage with each other about the same real-life problems or issues, and together learn more about the problem and from each other¹. In the education context, CoPs may be formed by a group of educators who share their practice, support each other, learn from one another, and increase their skills together.

How can it help?

Educators create CoPs who with other colleagues share an interest in effective teaching in innovative learning environments. As a group they can discuss the design process, selection of furniture and equipment, and co-teaching methods. Being part of a CoP will allow educators to learn from stories and experiences of colleagues to further develop and advance their own practice as well as find a supportive group of people who can help them navigate issues related to teaching in an innovative learning environment.

An example in practice

West Ryde Public School in Sydney, Australia created a future-focused CoP, called the “Co-Teaching Network”, to enable their educators to come together, share ideas, and support each other as they transition into an innovative learning environment. The team visited schools around Sydney to see different learning spaces and observe other educators’ practices. The team meets once every term. West Ryde Public School has implemented this in their school not only to encourage collaboration between educators but also to allow educators who are at different stages of the transition process to provide different perspectives, stories, and experiences.

Where can I find this?²

Further information about CoP is available via <https://www.bastow.vic.edu.au/leadership-initiatives/communities-of-practice>.

An additional example around how a rural school in Victoria, Australia implemented CoP in their school can be found via <https://www.aare.edu.au/blog/?tag=communities-of-practice>

[Correct as at 29 April 2020].

1. Wenger, E., McDermott, R., & Snyder, W.M. (2002). *Cultivating Communities of Practice*. Boston, MA: Harvard Business School Press.
2. All Spatial Transition Pathway ‘Strategies and Tools’ are licensed under a Creative Commons Attribution-Non Commercial 4.0 International License and available from iletc.com.au

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Home Leadership Initiatives Communities of Practice

Part of the Victorian Government’s Education State vision is a Communities of Practice (CoP) approach where networks and system leaders share knowledge, experience and resources.

<p>CoP system leadership approach</p> <p>The best education systems are those with well-connected and active leadership communities.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">read about the approach →</p>	<p>CoP and FISO</p> <p>Networks that take a collaborative approach are at the heart of implementing the Framework for Improving Student Outcomes (FISO).</p> <p style="text-align: right;">read about CoP and FISO →</p>	<p>CoP and networks</p> <p>The CoP approach builds on current network practices to focus the work of networks more purposefully.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">learn about network roles →</p>
<p>CoP self-assessment</p> <p>The CoP self-assessment tool enables networks to review their practice in line with the CoP approach and take it to an even higher level.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">learn about the tool →</p>	<p>CoP resources</p> <p>Resources and information for planning, implementation, building skills and knowledge, and performance assessment.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">see CoP resources →</p>	

