DEC Collaborate CoPs

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CoP – Create an Account

Create an Account:

Your account will be stored in CEC’s database and you may use the CEC membership page to retrieve it: https://imis.cec.sped.org/CEC_PROD/iCommerce/Contact_Management/Sign_In.aspx?
You may also contact Member Services at 888-232-7733 or service@cec.sped.org

Access DEC Collaborate:
1. The login link for DEC Collaborate is located on the DEC homepage www.dec-sped.org
You may want to bookmark the page - https://communities.dec-sped.org
2. Enter your Username and Password, then click Login
3. After clicking Login, you will be taken to the DEC Collaborate homepage.
Join a CoP

To join a CoP:
1. Click the Communities dropdown menu and select All Communities.
2. Next, select the CoP you want to join. (To narrow the choices, select CoP in the first search box.)
3. Locate the CoP you want to become a member of and click Join. HINT – you already belong to the CoPs without the Join icon.
4. In the pop-up dialog box, select how you would like to receive messages from THIS CoP. Your choice does not affect the other CoPs you belong to.
5. Then click Yes Join the Community
6. A second pop-up dialog box will appear. Choose Yes, Navigate to the Community to read/add to the CoPs Discussions, view/add resources to the Library, or you may click Close.

Change Email Notification Settings
1. Click My Profile
2. Click My Account
3. Click Community Notifications - change the email address where notifications are sent, and the day of the week they are sent.
4. Change how notifications are sent from individual CoPs you belong to.
Edit Privacy Settings
1. Click My Profile
2. Click My Account
3. Select Privacy Settings - determine what personal information you want others to see.

Navigation Bar
1. Home returns you to the homepage of DEC Collaborate.
2. A list of CoPs is found by clicking the Communities dropdown menu and selecting My Communities.
3. Click the Directory link to search for fellow members. After you select the member, contact information such as an email address is available. This section may also include other information such as the member’s bio and contributions. However, a member can choose to hide personal information from the directory.
4. Use the Browse dropdown to search the Discussion Post and Library entries for the CoPs you belong to.
5. Participate provides an alternate path to post a discussion or add materials to the library.
6. To search the program FAQ database, click on Help.
7. Search is a valuable tool – it searches for a keyword in the area you are in. For example, if I am in a CoP Library and search for the word Agenda, the search will return all documents with the word “agenda” in the filename. You can also use Boolean operators, such as and, or, not, in your searches.

Discussions

View and Add New Discussion Posts:
1. To locate your CoP, click Communities > My Communities
2. Select the CoP you want to work in.
3. Click the Discussion icon in the top row of tabs.
4. You can post a new message or respond to an existing message.
5. After composing the discussion, select an option.
IMPORTANT: Only CoP Admins can create new folders/subfolders.

View and Upload Resources/Materials
1. To locate your CoP, click Communities > My Communities
2. Select the CoP you want to work in.
3. Click the Library icon in the Navigation Bar.
4. Locate and single-click the Folder to receive the materials (click the arrow to the left to view subfolders).
5. Click the Create New Library Entry

6. An Add to a Library window will open.
7. Title the document.
8. A Description is optional.
9. Scroll to the bottom of the screen and click the [Entry Type] icon and select the type of material you will be uploading. Most of the files will be Standard File Upload which include Word, Excel, images (jpg, png), audio, and video files.
10. Click Next
11. Select Choose and Upload your document(s) and select the file(s) to upload.
12. Click Finish.

13. Click Back to Library at the top-left of the screen to return to the Library.

Delete Resources/Materials (members can only delete their own materials; CoP Admins can delete any resource).
1. Navigate to the CoP and select Library from the Navigation Bar and click on the folder containing the item to be deleted.
2. Click on the item.
3. Click View
4. Click the Actions down arrow
5. Select Delete
6. Click YES to delete the items.

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DEC Collaborate Terminology

- **Committee** – a group designated as a “committee” by DEC Executive Office. A vote/selection process determines committee membership. Examples are the Policy and Advocacy Committee (PAC), the Leadership Committee, and the Inclusion, Equity, and Social Justice Committee (IESJ).
- **Community** – A DEC Collaborate Community is workspace where a committee of members can communicate and share. Members must have paid memberships to CEC/DEC. If membership lapses, the member’s account is suspended in DEC Collaborate until they renew.
- **Community Admin** – chairs/members are assigned this role. Community Admins can add and deleted members, additionally, they have access to moderation tools and other options.
- **Community of Practice (CoP)** – a CoP is a group of members AND non-members who communicate and share within DEC Collaborate.
- **Community Notification Settings** – change the email address, what day, and how (daily/weekly; real time/none) notifications from INDIVIDUAL Communities and CoPs are sent.
- **Member** – anyone who is a registered member of CEC/DEC. Can belong to Communities and CoPs.
- **Nested Communities** – breaks down the work of a Community into subcommunities or workgroups.
- **Non-member** (CoP-only members) – anyone who is NOT a registered member of CEC/DEC. Non-members MAY belong to a CoP, however, they may NOT belong to a Community.
- **Privacy Settings** – change what personal information others see
- **Structure of Nested Communities** – The Nested Communities structure allows for multiple tiers of nest communities (subcommunities) to be nested under any Community. Members can belong to as many Nested Communities as necessary.

Clarification:  
- Members – may join Communities & CoPs
- Non-members – may only join CoPs (CoP-only members)