

Policy No: Q-1

Subject: AASL Community of Practice: Omnibus

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Effective Date: 1/13/2022

Revision Date(s):

Review Date(s):

**Review Responsibility:** Member Engagement Committee, AASL Board of Directors, AASL Articles and Bylaws Committee

**Policy Statement:** The AASL Member Engagement Committee will oversee the establishment, activities, and disbandment of AASL's Communities of Practice (CoP).

**Focus:**

Primary: Member Engagement Committee, AASL Board of Directors

**Definitions:**

Community of Practice: Communities of practice are groups of people who share a concern or a passion for something they do and learn how to do it better as they interact regularly. Motivations for convening a community of practice are many, but at the most fundamental level, a group of people come together driven by a shared learning need. By engaging each other over time in collective learning, they develop a bond that in turn fuels the production of resources to influence their own practices.

**Purpose:**

To outline information pertaining to the establishment, monitoring, and disbandment of AASL's Communities of Practice.

**Procedure:**

1. Each CoP will:
  - 1.1. Have an identified liaison from the Membership Engagement Committee.
  - 1.2. Have an annual virtual meeting.
  - 1.3. Will establish a leadership structure and identify roles within the participating members.
    - 1.3.1. Examples of possible leadership roles may include, but are not limited to:
      - 1.3.1.1. Discussion monitor – posting questions or topics for group to discuss periodically.
      - 1.3.1.2. Meeting coordinator – if the CoP decides to have regularly scheduled meetings this person will manage logistics and communications.
      - 1.3.1.3. Special event/project coordinator – this could include a book club, professional/article read, guest speaker, session submission to ALA or AASL conferences, etc.
2. An initial offering of CoP will be established to include:

- 2.1. Information Literacy Instruction – this community focuses on instruction to help learners engage in creative and critical thinking about research and information resources, facilitating learners’ development as knowledge creators, lifelong learners, and participants in academic and scholarly activity.
- 2.2. Teacher Collaboration – this community focuses on school librarian and classroom educator collaboration strategies, project ideas, and outcomes.
- 2.3. Literature/Reading Promotion – this community focuses on both ‘advertising’ within the school community as well as reading promotion for every learner in the school community.
- 2.4. Digital and Technology Tools – this community focused on digital and technology tools for use in the school library, to advise and incorporate into classroom instruction, and for learner application.
- 2.5. Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion – this community focused on diversity, equity, and inclusion through the school library covering collection development and learner initiatives as well as with the profession.

(All of these initial groups and their descriptions are a starting point based on the membership survey conducted by the Member Promotion Committee and approved by the board. It is assumed that some CoPs may not get members, others are so expansive they may splinter into several more focused CoP, and new ones will be discovered. It is recommended that 12-18 months after the approval of this policy this section be updated to not specify CoP)

3. Membership in a Community of Practice shall be open to members of the AASL.
4. Communities of Practice may be created or dissolved upon recommendation by the Member Engagement Committee to the AASL Board of Directors.
5. Any current AASL member may request a new CoP be established by submitted the request to the Member Engagement Committee for consideration.