



**Division for Early Childhood**  
**Comparison of Committees and Communities of Practice**

<u>Committees</u>	<u>Communities of Practice (CoP)</u>
→ Established by the DEC Executive Office (EO) as an extension of the EO	→ Formed by/for professionals and families to engage in discussion, resource sharing, and activities around a shared interest, topic or practice
→ Led by the DEC EO in partnership with Committee Chairs and liaised by members of the Executive Board	→ Activity under the DEC EO, supported by the EO and CoP Development Committee
→ Embrace/Support formal <a href="#">DEC mission and positions</a> (e.g. <a href="#">Priority Issues Agenda</a> , <a href="#">DEC Ends Policies</a> , <a href="#">Position Statements</a> , etc.)	→ Share interests/practices aligned with <a href="#">DEC mission and positions</a> (e.g. <a href="#">Priority Issues Agenda</a> , <a href="#">DEC Ends Policies</a> , <a href="#">Position Statements</a> , etc.)
→ Proactively participate in developing, maintaining, and evolving strategies and initiatives crucial and central to supporting <a href="#">DEC’s missions and positions</a>	→ Activities driven CoP by interests and participants may create (or co-create with Committees) resources and materials to support formal <a href="#">DEC mission and positions</a>
→ Have established action plans with routine communication and meetings with DEC EO and Executive Board Liaison	→ CoP facilitators may establish action plans and meetings, activities, and communication varies by CoP interests and needs
→ Members identified through a formal “call for committee members” issued by the EO and Committee Chair (DEC membership required)	→ Open invitation for anyone who shares interests/practices with the CoP to join (DEC membership required to facilitate a CoP and NOT required to participate)

\*\*Overlap may occur when Committees and CoPs share interests/practices/action plan items around DEC missions, positions and priority issues. The PPC and CoPs may collaborate on product development, review, dissemination, and participant recruitment. This [organizational chart](#) provides additional information on how Committees and CoPs fit within the DEC organization.