

Count Play Explore

Professional Learning and Coaching Cohort

Introduction

The Fresno County Superintendent of Schools, Early Care and Education Department (FCSS) is accepting applications to participate in the Count Play Explore Professional Learning and Coaching Cohort (CPE PLC Cohort). Specifically, the CPE PLC Cohort is seeking applications from agencies across California including County Offices of Education, School Districts, non-profit organizations, and other organizations that provide technical assistance, training/professional development, coaching, or other capacity-building support for the early care and education (ECE) workforce in California.

This opportunity is designed to build capacity in early mathematics and science (including computer science) education for those who provide coaching and training for ECE professionals who serve children from birth to 3rd grade. Moreover, CPE will engage facilitators in developing awareness and capacity to utilize effective community resources in improving mathematics and science education, implementation plans, and tools and practices to leverage community resources in improving mathematics and science education in their own early learning contexts across the state.

Up to thirty agencies will be selected via an application process to participate in the CPE PLC Cohort and will receive \$350,000.00 to support their full participation in the entire project period – from April 2025 to December 2027. Our goal is to recruit a representative sample of agencies/sites across California, in regard to geography (e.g., rural vs. urban; and small vs. large county) and target population characteristics (e.g., those characteristics that align with the Local Control Funding Formula, including Dual Language Learners and English Learners, children with disabilities and other special needs, etc.); in addition to those agencies who train and support the mixed delivery system (e.g., school and/or center-based sites, family/friend/neighbor, neighborhood resource centers, family child care homes, etc.).

Applications are due **January 17, 2025, at 5 pm**. If you have any questions, please contact Naomi Reeley at nreeley@fcoe.org.

About Count Play Explore

Count Play Explore (CPE), formerly the California Statewide Early Math Initiative, is a multi-agency effort led by the Fresno County Superintendent of Schools (FCSS), Early Care and Education (ECE) Department. To learn more about CPE partners visit [here](#).

The goal of CPE is to improve mathematics and science outcomes for children from birth through third grade by creating innovative professional development, communications, and other resources for educators and families. CPE is funded by the California Department of Education, Early Education Division.

CPE Vision: Children from birth through third grade develop strong math and science skills which provide a foundation for academic success and career access. Every child from birth through third grade — of any background, race, culture, ethnicity, language, gender, ability, or socioeconomic status — and every family, caregiver, and educator experiences math and science with confidence, joy, and belonging.

CPE Mission: Count Play Explore provides culturally affirming capacity building, professional learning, resources, and messaging to support equitable math and science learning and outcomes for every child from birth through third grade.

CPE Core Principles

1. We ground our work in four fundamental principles of early math and science learning:
 - a. Math and science are everywhere
 - b. Math and science are for everyone
 - c. Math and science are fun and playful
 - d. Math and science mindsets matter
2. We lead with equity for children, families, and educators
3. We operate in all places where children and families live, play, and learn across the full birth through third-grade continuum
4. We leverage and align with state, regional, and local efforts
5. We build toward sustainability

CPE Outcomes

1. Support early math and science outcomes for CA children from birth to 3rd grade.

2. Raise awareness of the importance of early math and science among educators and families.
3. Build positive math and science identities for adults who care for and teach young children.
4. Increase the confidence and capacity of educators and families to support children's early math and science.

To learn more about CPE, visit our [website](#).

CPE Professional Learning and Coaching Cohort Deliverables

To be eligible for participation in the CPE Professional Learning and Coaching Cohort (CPE PLC Cohort) your agency will need to commit to the following:

- Participate during the entire project period (March 2025 to December 2027)
- Participate during the week-long institute in June 2025 (June 2nd through June 6th), in Spring 2026, and in Spring 2027
- Participate in quarterly virtual community of practice sessions (3 hours per session)
- Participate in ongoing coaching with CPE partners
- Implement CPE professional learning resources and provide feedback
- Participate in implementation logs, surveys, focus groups, and/or interviews with CPE's independent evaluator, WestEd
- Train and coach a cohort of at least 20 ECE professionals within your target community throughout the project period (can be staff members of your organization and/or of partner agencies)
- Provide 20 hours of professional learning and coaching sessions per school year for each of the 20 educators and support CPE evaluation efforts related to educators.
- Implement family and community STEAM engagement efforts using CPE resources, for example, Discovering the Math: Book Guides and related activities, and Interactive Exhibits.
- Agency teams (including leadership) will attend 2 virtual meetings per year with CPE leadership to discuss program updates, cohort deliverables, and updates about local implementation.
- Agency teams (including leadership) will work on a sustainability plan throughout the cohort to support the sustainability of math and science programming in their local context.

CPE PLC Cohort Team Facilitators' Responsibilities

Each selected agency will be required to have a CPE PLC Cohort team of at least two (and no more than four) facilitators who will be responsible for participating in cohort activities; one facilitator will serve as the lead and will assist in the coordination of team activities.

Facilitators should have the time to commit to the tasks and responsibilities outlined below. Moreover, the CPE PLC Cohort team should include individuals with diverse experiences, expertise, and knowledge, including those who come from populations that have been historically underrepresented in STEAM fields (e.g., racial and ethnic minorities). Facilitators may have different levels of STEAM education, varying levels of training experience, and differing amounts of time in the workforce.

Facilitators will need allocated time each month to fully plan and implement quality CPE professional learning and coaching to local educators. Specifically, all CPE Team Facilitators will be asked to commit to the following:

- Attend and actively participate in CPE events:
 - An annual three-to-five-day in-person Institute (the first institute will be held June 2-6, 2025). The following institutes will be held in the spring of 2026 and 2027)
 - Virtual Events during the workday (M-F between 9 to 5)
 - Coaching sessions with CPE coaches during the workday (M-F between 9 to 5)
 - Feedback sessions during the workday (M-F between 9 to 5)
- Explore and utilize CPE online modules to build the facilitator's capacity and knowledge in early STEAM education.
- As an agency team, allocate time each month to fully plan and implement quality CPE professional learning and coaching to local educators: 20 hours of local professional learning and coaching sessions with at least 20 educators.
- Participate in evaluation activities, which may include (but are not limited to):
 - Pre- and post-surveys for facilitators
 - Focus groups for facilitators
 - Supporting the recruitment for and administration of pre- and post-surveys for educators
- Work alongside agency leadership to support sustainability and implementation of CPE deliverables

In addition, there will be one lead facilitator per agency. The lead facilitator will be the contact person for the agency and should be actively engaging in CPE PLC Cohort activities. The lead facilitator's responsibilities include but are not limited to:

- Coordinating schedules with the other facilitators from their agency
- Updating CPE on any changes to their agency's team
- Completing agency surveys and questionnaires
- Ensuring all facilitators on their team are attending CoPs and other CPE-hosted events
- Coordinating coaching sessions
- Completing implementation logs for their agency
- Facilitating connections with sites to recruit educators, children, and families for participation in evaluation activities (e.g., surveys, observations, focus groups)

CPE PLC Cohort Application Timeline

Activity	Date
Application Release	November 19, 2024
Application Workshop Webinar	December 09, 2024 at 9 am
Applications Due to Count Play Explore	January 17, 2025, by 5 pm
Agencies Notified about Interviews	February 08, 2025
Agency Interviews with Count Play Explore	February 10, 2025, through February 25, 2025
Selected Agencies Announced	February 28, 2025