

CGEL PARTNER COLLABORATIVE FAQ

What is the CGEL Partner Collaborative?

The CGEL Partner Collaborative is a community of those organizations (international organizations, public agencies, embassies, universities, businesses, cultural institutions, nongovernmental organizations, and others) committed to working through CGEL to develop a strategic approach to expanding and improving global education for DCPS students. It will serve as a forum for partner communication, coordination, and advocacy; an incubator for new ideas and collaborative planning; as well as a vehicle for more effective and efficient interaction with DCPS. Through the Collaborative, CGEL will benefit from the ongoing input and involvement of partner organizations, and create the opportunity to improve and expand resources within a larger strategic framework that will serve students more equitably, effectively, and efficiently.

What is the relationship between CGEL and the Partner Collaborative?

The DC Center for Global Education and Leadership (CGEL) is a nonprofit organization dedicated to promoting high quality, systemic global education in DC Public Schools (DCPS) to ensure that all students, regardless of income or social background, are prepared for responsible global citizenship in the 21st century. The Partner Collaborative is a program of CGEL, and has been created to advance its mission. While CGEL's Board has ultimate oversight over the Collaborative activities, this group has been created as a collaborative in order to encourage collective action and initiatives designed by the members themselves.

What is the relationship between CGEL and individual members of the Partner Collaborative?

Participation in CGEL in no way affects how an individual partner organization is managed. The CGEL Partner Collaborative is a voluntary association. At least for the imaginable future, unless by specific agreement, CGEL will play no role or assume no responsibilities for program design or implementation, fundraising, promotion, evaluation, or other activities of its individual members. It will also not manage the relationship between DCPS and individual organizations, nor will it ever stand as a barrier or intermediary between partner organizations and DCPS. Participation in the CGEL Collaborative will focus on objectives and activities that are created by virtue of collective association and action (i.e., information sharing, program coordination, strategic planning, collective marketing) that will enhance and inform each individual organization's work.

Does the Collaborative serve charter schools?

CGEL was created as an initiative of DCPS's Office of International Programs. CGEL's mission is explicitly to advance global education for DCPS students and teachers, and to work for the systemic globalization of DCPS. Working to support charter school students and teachers is not part of this mission. As a program of CGEL, the CGEL Collaborative will work to advance that mission and to expand global education opportunities for DCPS students and teachers. At the same time, membership in the Collaborative in no way restricts any organization's efforts on behalf of charters. Many of CGEL's efforts will inevitably advance global education within DC charters – as for example, the CGEL website and information clearinghouse, as well as CGEL's DC state-level efforts.

What does CGEL get from Partners?

- Better communication with partners
- Better opportunity to coordinate and support the development of high quality global education programs that meet the needs of DCPS students and teachers

- Sharing of best practices
- Unified show of support for mission
- Credibility for CGEL
- Help in outreach to various stakeholder communities

What do Partners get for participation in the CGEL Collaborative?

- Opportunities to learn about, learn from, and network with other organizations
- Access to the latest information on global education issues in DC
- Facilitation in relationship with DCPS
- Help with marketing programs
- Collective voice and joint efforts to advance global education
- Opportunity to coordinate services and benefit from best practices
- Ability to do gap analysis to determine where more services are needed/where they're not

MEMBERSHIP

What does it mean to be a Collaborative “Partner”?

It means being part of a great group of people and organizations united by one common concern – the belief that DCPS students should have access to quality global education. It means engaging with like-minded people to figure out how to expand and improve the quality of global education for DCPS students, and working to make global education a part of the way DCPS students are educated in their schools and classrooms.

Who is eligible to be a member?

Any organization (for-profit, non-profit, government) which provides free or nominally free services or products which advance global education in DCPS.

Who is not?

- Individuals and organizational supporters who are not service providers
- Vendors, business, and nonprofits interested narrowly in marketing their own services

Will the names of the individuals who represent organizations be listed as Partners?

Organizations or individual service providers are listed as Partners. Each Partner will identify one or more contacts for the organization. There will be no limit to the number of contacts a Partner can have.

Some committed individuals represent organizations (i.e., government agencies, universities) which may in all respects meet the requirements of membership but may have legal or bureaucratic problems preventing them from becoming “Partners.” How will this be handled?

We’ll develop appropriate and mutually acceptable language (such as “collaborative relationships with --”) that will allow these types of organizations to fully participate in the Partner Collaborative.

Will there be other categories for supporters who do not qualify to be members of the Partner Collaborative?

Absolutely, we will invite everyone committed to advancing the mission of CGEL to lend their names and participate in a way appropriate to their interests and abilities. Other supporters will be listed as Donors,

Advisors, committee and working group members. There will be a Global Educators Network and a student leadership group as well. CGEL will find the language and mechanism to engage all interested individuals and organizations.

What is required of members?

1. Members must commit to advance the mission of CGEL in a manner appropriate to their specific organizational missions and capacities. The mission has two parts:
 - Advance global education in DCPS in some defined, quantifiable way through free or almost free services. Each partner will provide CGEL with information on these educational activities to be included in an annual public report. The scope and type of activities will range broadly between organizations, dependent on a number of factors.
 - Support CGEL’s strategic vision and systemic approach focused on DCPS reform.
2. Support the work of CGEL, such as:
 - Attendance at meetings
 - Participation in committees and working groups
 - Link on website
 - Share information on services, programs
 - Volunteer services, time, resources
 - Provide input when needed
 - Spread the word/recruit new partners/referrals/networking

Will dues be charged?

No, not at this time. We will let partners know about our fundraising strategies and activities, and ask them to help spread the word, as they feel appropriate. Clearly, funding will be necessary to accomplish the goals of the Collaborative and CGEL in general.

Will the Partner Collaborative make public policy statements, offer public testimony, or take public positions?

CGEL will definitely make public statements. While it is expected that these will reflect the consensus of the group (i.e., pushing for more support for global education and languages), given the diverse nature of the collaborative membership (including city and federal officials), it would be extremely difficult to develop a process that everyone would feel comfortable with. It is our goal to be as inclusive as possible with the collaborative and not create conditions that will make it difficult for organizations to participate. An initial suggestion is that CGEL statements will explicitly be made on behalf of CGEL and will not reflect the position of the individual members. We’ll always ask members for input and participation in the development of these positions. We will give members the opportunity to individually sign on to statements or position papers (as organizations and/or as individuals), as each feels appropriate. The same policy would pertain to public testimony – CGEL would only speak on behalf of itself, not the individual partners, but they would have the opportunity to provide input, sign on, and participate in testifying as they wish.

PLANS FOR 2010

What will the Partner Collaborative's specific objectives be for 2010?

Based on CGEL's initial goals, the Partner Collaborative will focus on the following critical tasks:

Organizational Development:

- Creating a Statement of Purpose for the Collaborative
- Making the public announcement of CGEL and its Partner Collaborative
- Establishing the structure of the collaborative, meetings, committees, policies, and operating guidelines
- Developing a budget and securing funding to support Collaborative activities

Information Clearinghouse:

- Information Collection/Dissemination for the website and print materials (ongoing)
- Partner Report (annual end-of-year report for May)
- Report on State of Global Education in DCPS (baseline study)
- Directory of programs, opportunities, activities (annual catalogue for opening of school)

Systemic:

- Providing ongoing comment, input, analysis, and testimony on DCPS, DC, OSSE reports and policy, budget
- Participation in CGEL's strategic planning process for globalization of DCPS/DC public education
- Global Education Summit

Programs:

- Global DCPS Month (May)
- Planning for new programs

How will the work of the Partner Collaborative get done? How will it be funded?

This is a critical question that has yet to be answered. Clearly, the collaborative will need to build capacity to accomplish agreed upon objectives. What this will look like will depend upon the interests and capacity of the individual members of the collaborative. One option is to raise funds to support sufficient CGEL staff (paid and volunteers) to accomplish the goals of the collaborative. Another option is for members to contribute resources (services, staff time, materials) to accomplish certain objectives. Ideally, the collaborative will rely on a combination of the two approaches, and will evolve over time as CGEL grows and builds its overall capacity.