

Collaborative for Physical Therapy Education



APTA has established the Collaborative for Physical Therapy Education to foster collaboration among organizational stakeholders toward achieving the aims of [“A Vision for Excellence in Physical Therapy Education.”](#) Participants in the former Education Leadership Partnership and other stakeholder organizations are invited to submit a letter of interest to become a participating organization in the collaborative. An in-person inaugural meeting is being planned for Tuesday, Feb. 21, from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. (room TBA), before APTA Combined Sections Meeting in San Diego. The goal of this meeting is to formalize the purpose, framework, and processes of the collaborative.

Background

From March 2016 to February 2022, education stakeholders representing 12 organizations partnered to address excellence in physical therapy education, providing a more global perspective than that of any one organization. The capstone of that collaborative effort, the Education Leadership Partnership, was publication of [“A Vision for Excellence in Physical Therapy Education”](#) in December 2021, which included the vision, perspectives, pillars, and guiding principles that stakeholders agreed should drive efforts in the coming years and decades. The collaborative has been created as a next generation effort to facilitate implementation of the work needed to achieve the aims of the vision.

Purpose

This new collaboration provides a forum for education stakeholder organizations that are committed to achieving excellence in physical therapy education and collaboratively supporting the profession. Participating organizations commit to addressing the complexities, interdependence, and transformation needed to advance physical therapy education to meet the needs of learners, the profession, and society. The focus of the Collaborative for Physical Therapy Education is to identify the priorities and associated actions, especially collaborative ones, that will advance the aims of the vision. **To that end, the collaborative’s goals are to:**

1. Identify relevant planned, implemented, and yet-to-be-developed efforts across stakeholder organizations.
2. Prioritize collaborative opportunities that are developmentally appropriate, building on a solid educational foundation using best practices and learning science approaches.
3. Promote action through independent organizational efforts and/or collaborative efforts.
4. Identify outputs and outcomes from efforts that have contributed to advancing the aims of the vision.

Participation

Participation in the collaborative is voluntary and open to stakeholder organizations with an interest in advancing any of the pillars and associated guiding principles identified in the vision. Stakeholder organizations interested in becoming a participating organization should submit a descriptive letter of interest that addresses its commitment to collaboration to achieve the aims of the vision, its potential contributions to

the collaborative (e.g., resources and supports), and agreement to communicate the collaboratives efforts with its members at least annually. The letter should be from the organization's chief officer and addressed to [Steven Chesbro](#). Participating organizations will be asked to provide a high-resolution, vector-based (.AI or .EPS) logo, if available. Other requests may be made as the collaborative develops.

Operations

APTA is the sponsoring organization for the collaborative and will provided limited staff and logistic support. Participating organizations, including APTA, will identify a primary and secondary representative with relevant educational interest to the collaborative. APTA will manage the operations of the group with consultation of a steering committee appointed to help facilitate its work. The steering committee will include seven primary representatives who serve staggered terms.

Meetings

The collaborative will meet at least four times per year.

Measures of Success

Shared and individual organization actions, outputs, and outcomes related to the vision will be tracked through annual assessments between 2023 and 2025. In 2025, stakeholders will be asked to contribute to a process to determine the value of the collaborative, which, along with other measures, will inform its future.

Funding

Each participating organization will support the participation costs of their representative(s) and appointees, such as travel and other related expenses.

Each stakeholder organization has its own specific intent, guided by independent missions, visions, value statements, and goals and objectives. Participating organizations are encouraged to identify opportunities to pool resources to advance specific components of the vision that could benefit from collaborative action. Funding of shared opportunities is at the discretion of the participating organizations. Opportunities are identified based on prioritization and shared interests between stakeholders, which will determine resources available.

Appendix

Anticipated Questions

Q: Is the Collaborative for Physical Therapy Education a new name for the Education Leadership Partnership (i.e., ELP 2.0)?

A: No. The ELP spent much of its time between 2018 and 2022 identifying the frameworks, priorities, and tenets needed to advance the profession through education and **creating a vision for the future**. The participating organizations in this new collaborative will focus on **prioritizing and implementing actions** that move the profession toward achieving the aims of the vision.

Q: Is the Collaborative for Physical Therapy Education a new organization?

A: No. The collaborative is a shared commitment among education stakeholder organizations to discuss the complexities, interdependence, and transformation needed to advance physical therapy education; to collaborate on opportunities and priorities; and to take coordinated and collective action to achieve the aims of the vision.

Q: Is a participating organization a “member” or “partner” of the collaborative?

A: Participants are encouraged to refer to themselves as participating organizations, as the terms “member” and “partner” may confuse members of organizations and appear as a replacement for participation in the ELP.

Q: Can members of participating organizations participate as individuals in the collaborative?

A: Participating organizations may nominate members for specific opportunities that would benefit from individual engagement. An individual’s engagement should represent the participating organization’s perspective rather than their personal perspective.