WDE ⚙ STAR

Spring Technical Assistance Retreat
2025 Sessions *- subject to change*

Pre-Conferences

21st Century Community Learning Centers Pre-Conference
Pre-Conference begins at 9 AM Tuesday, May 13, 2025

The 21stCCLC Precon is a series of three half-day professional learning sessions designed for 21stCCLC program coordinators and key staff. There is no charge to attend this Precon. Tentative March 13 session topics are Mapping Backwards from Monitoring to Best Practices in Grants Management and Intentional Design: Learning Targets Everyday for Every Activity. On March 14, join the 21stCCLC Evaluation team for an intensive session on local evaluation strategies. Partners from LEAs and CBOs that make decisions about data are encouraged to attend.

McKinney-Vento Pre-Conference
Pre-Conference begins at 8 AM Tuesday, May 13, 2025

The McKinney-Vento presconference is a two day annual training for school and district homeless liaisons and preschool staff as well as anyone that would like to receive in depth training regarding the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act and the requirements this law entails. There is no charge for this pre-conference.

STAR Sessions

STAR drop-in registration: Wednesday, May 14, 2025 at 12:30 - 1:30 PM

Sessions begin: Wednesday, May 14, 2025 at 1:30 PM

Building Bridges with Early Childhood Partners... and Why it Matters to Student (and Family) Success
Presenter: Amy Reyes and Helena Wagner

Children entering kindergarten come from many different early learning backgrounds–from home to Head Start. Coordinating an accessible entry process, and understanding how districts can partner with ECE providers, creates a strong foundation for school success from entry point into the K-12 system. Partnerships with early care and education providers can be mutually beneficial for all involved: school administrators, teaching staff, families and children!

Consolidated Program Monitoring in eGMS
Presenter: Mark Bowers

This presentation will provide an introduction to the monitoring module Linq has put in our eGMS. Districts that will be monitored based on their cycle designation and will use the tool this fall for the 24-25 school year are: Carbon #2, Converse #2, Crook #1, Goshen #1, Johnson #1, Park #6, Platte #2, Sheridan #2, Sheridan #3, Sublette #1, Washakie #1, Weston #7.

Crowdsourcing Evidenced-Based Decision-Making: A Collaborative Approach to Meeting This Requirement in Title II-A & Title IV-A

Presenter: Mary Bravo

This interactive session opens with a focused review of evidence-based requirements for Title II-A and Title IV-A grants. Participants will then collaborate to share strategies for identifying impactful evidence to drive student learning in grant-funded programs. Share your district's successes with evidence-based practices, including planning, implementation, evaluation, and integration of ESSA's four tiers of evidence. Even if you have more questions than answers, join us to connect with fellow grant managers on this sometimes challenging requirement. You'll leave with a curated resource list developed during the session to support your district's evidence-based grant management practices.

eGMS Overview & Special Topics

Presenter: Diana Thompson and Jeannie Veytsman

The purpose of this session is to gain knowledge of the new educational grants management system and tools available to users as they work through the entire grants management cycle. The following major topics will be covered: navigating the system, creating funding applications, working on grant budgets and submitting applications for review. Special topics will include working on cash requests, application supplements and amendments, as well as the workflow for each of those processes. Diana and Jeannie will address some of the issues that users might encounter while working in the eGMS environment. In the end, we will discuss eGMS guides, training videos and other resources available to LEAs.

How Do I Use Title III Funds the Way They Were Prescribed Under ESSA?

Presenter: Jessica Fancher

Participants will gain knowledge and tools to help develop a comprehensive application on how Title III funds will be used as required by ESSA. Learn the requirements for implementing an LIEP, providing professional development, and conducting parent, family, and community engagement events in order to improve English language proficiency for English learners.

IDEA Allowable Use of Funds

Presenter: Deb Montoya and Kim Sanford

This session will define the criteria and parameters to determine the allowability of costs charged to the grants under the IDEA Part B 611 and 619. A focus on the specific ways LEAs can utilize IDEA Part B funding for providing special education and related services to students with disabilities, including decision trees to help in making allowable/allocable cost determinations.

IDEA Proportionate Share and CEIS Funds

Presenter: Deb Montoya and Kim Sanford

Proportionate Share: This portion of the session will review the IDEA's proportionate share requirements in allocating a specific portion of the Part B funds to provide equitable services to children with disabilities who are enrolled in private schools by their parents/guardians. Key points will cover the purpose, calculation, control of funds by LEA, and consultation required to determine appropriate special education services.

CEIS: This portion of the session will discuss IDEA's CEIS (coordinated early intervening services) requirements in Part B 611 funds. Topics covered will include the CEIS percentage of funds allowed, student eligibility, voluntary versus mandatory use of CEIS funds, focus on early intervention, and reporting requirements. Tools for CEIS tracking and data will be shared.

IDEA Part B Application and MOE
Presenter: Deb Montoya and Kim Sanford

This session will review the application process and requirements for the IDEA Part B 611 and 619 grant funds and completing the application within the new eGMS system. The basics of the federal requirement of MOE (Maintenance of Effort) to remain eligible for full federal grant funding and the MOE calculations and exceptions will be reviewed.

Indirect Cost Is Not Complicated
Presenter: Diana Thompson and Les Koch

Indirect cost got you down? Les and Diana will dispel the myth that indirect cost management is difficult. They will define indirect cost, the associated rate, how to calculate, and discuss reasons why indirect cost may benefit your school district. Join us if you currently manage indirect costs or are expecting to do so this upcoming July 1st.

Innovation in Afterschool & Summer Learning Spaces
Presenter: Karen Bierhaus

In today's dynamic educational environment, afterschool and summer learning programs have immense potential for innovation. This session will explore how to shift towards personalized and youth-driven learning models that address the real needs of students and families. Learn to leverage collaboration and networking, rather than solely relying on funding, to create impactful out-of-school time experiences that empower young people to create and lead.

Lessons in Foster Care: Relationship Between Campbell County School District #1 & Wyoming Department of Family Services
Presenter: Campbell County School District #1: Eric Stremcha, Jessica Diaz, Darla Sneathen, Heidi Phipps
Wyoming Department of Family Services: Bonnie Volk, Crystal Canfield, Karen Weinhardt

Learn how to improve foster-care communication between your school district and local child-welfare agency by joining this informal discussion between Campbell County School District #1 and Region #6 of the Wyoming Department of Family Services. Both parties will be presented questions referencing the best-interest-determination (BID) process. Answers to these questions will help school districts improve communication with their local child-welfare agency.

McKinney-Vento 101: Basic overview of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act for school & district staff
Presenter: Shannon Cranmore

Become familiar with important McKinney-Vento Act requirements, including: The role of the district homeless liaison, student eligibility, school selection, immediate enrollment, transportation and more.

McKinney-Vento 201: We have identified homeless students, now what?
Presenter: Shannon Cranmore

Become familiar with the "next steps" once a student has been identified as homeless under McKinney-Vento, Including: services for which homeless students are eligible, attendance and discipline flexibility, unaccompanied homeless youth, and more.

McKinney-Vento Program Monitoring
Presenter: Shannon Cranmore

This session will be an in depth look at the McKinney-Vento monitoring indicators for A-13 to A.27 and J.01 to J.03 within the Consolidate Grant Monitoring protocol. We will discuss the requirements and the allowable evidence districts should be collecting and providing.

Pathways and Opportunities: Preparing Students for the Next Level
Presenter: Kristie Garriffa and Trish Conrad: Sheridan County School District #2

Ensuring students are prepared for what lies beyond high school takes a coordinated approach beginning early. Learn how one district integrates funding, student support, and the community to bring each student to their personalized next level.

RLIS & SRSA - REAP the Benefits
Presenter: Mark Bowers

The Rural Education Achievement Program (REAP) provides grants and flexibilities for small, rural districts and districts supporting rural, low-income schools. This presentation will provide information about the Rural, Low-Income Schools (RLIS) program, the Small, Rural Schools Achievement (SRSA) program, as well as fund flexibilities afforded by the Alternate Funding Use Authority (AFUA).

School Improvement Planning and Resource Allocations
Presenter: Beth Lougee and Stephanie Benboe

This presentation provides insights into using funds, materials, and staff to promote a strong school improvement plan. By focusing on a school's organizational strengths and areas of opportunity through resource allocation, we will walk you through the WDE priority practice assessment, which focuses on six high-impact domains: Leadership, Climate and Culture, Professional Development, Instruction, Learning Supports, and Data-Informed Planning.

Show Me the Money!
Presenter: Dr. Michelle Aldrich

Discover the benefits of participating in Perkins funding. We will discuss why the initial allocation is NOT why most Districts participate in Perkins. We will discuss the changes that have been made to make Perkins more manageable for Districts and CTE teachers.

Struggling to Success: Strategic Resource Allocation Review
Panel Discussion with Albany #1 and Sheridan #1
Presenter: Kay Mobley (Albany Count School District #1 Federal Grant System Administrator),
**   Lee Zimmer (Sheridan County District #1 Curriculum Director)**

Listen to Kay's and Lee's 'struggles to success' as they share their most recent resource allocation review process for their 1003(a) identified alternative high school's low graduation rates. Lessons learned here are not exclusive to high schools; resource allocation reviews also apply to elementary and middle schools. Attendees will be encouraged to share their own experiences as well.

Student Success Plans + Work-based Learning = Student Success
Presenter: Dr. Michelle Aldrich

Explore how student success plans, work-based learning and career and technical education can impact your graduation rates. We will explore free tools that can help increase the number of students who are college, career and military ready for accountability. Make sure your students have a plan and aren't experiencing "random acts of credit"!

The Ultimate Guide to Submitting an Error Free WDE568
Presenter: Jessica Fancher

Attendees will walk away with the knowledge necessary to ensure that all data submitted for this collection is error-free. Districts will gain tools to implement a thorough review process to achieve a 100% accuracy rate in the submission. This goal supports the overall USED reporting objective of maintaining high-quality standards and accurate student level information for the CSPR.

Time and Effort: What's Up with That Time Change?
Presenter: Jessica Fancher

Changes in the Uniform Grant Guidance will be discussed and how it impacts documentation. Attendees will develop a comprehensive understanding of federal grant requirements related to time and effort reporting, including documentation and compliance standards that will help improve accountability in grant management.

Title I, Part D, Subpart 2: Key Insights Learned from Monitoring by USED That Will Change the Application and Monitoring Process
Presenter: Jessica Fancher

Analyzing the WDE's monitoring from the U.S. Department of Education (USED to identify key insights and trends in program implementation, effectiveness, and evaluation. Attendees will also gain insight on application completion and utilizing data reports to inform program improvements.

Title I in eGMS
Presenter: Les Koch

Les will display the 2025-2026 Title I, Part A account in eGMS and go page by page for a successful application. Open to the challenge, he will skillfully and gracefully answer all programmatic and fiscal questions thrown at him. Les will explain new features that were added to make the application easier for district personnel.

Title II-A & IV-A 101: An overview of key components for new grant managers
Presenter: Mary Bravo

What are the essential parts of Title II-A and Title IV-A that you must know to keep your district in compliance and make grant planning, expenditure tracking, and stakeholder engagement more manageable? Come to this session to find out. This session is perfect for Title II-A and Title IV-A grant managers who have been in their positions for less than two years or experienced grant managers who would like a refresher on the essential components of both grants.

Understanding Allowability-Program Outcomes & Best Practices

Presenter: Karen Bierhaus and Mary Bravo

This session will offer managers a broad approach to understanding allowability. Allowability can depend on the context of the school or district plan for improvement, and an intentionally designed needs assessment, along with consideration of key principles, can guide more effective uses of funds.

Using Federal Funds to Support MTSS (Wyoming MTSS Financial Guidance Using Federal Funds)

Presenter: Beth Lougee and Stephanie Benboe

This presentation shares information on federal program leads in Wyoming districts, principals, federal program managers, and other leaders responsible for fiscal decisions related to implementing multi-tiered systems of support (MTSS). It includes guidance on coordinating state and federal funds to support MTSS implementation. The presentation starts with a brief overview of MTSS as defined by the Wyoming Department of Education, followed by hearing from a district that is getting great results from its MTSS implementation. Finally, it summarizes federal and state funding sources and resources to support team planning activities.