



Spring Technical Assistance Retreat

2026 Agenda

Pre-Conferences

Location: Holiday Inn and Riverton High School

Tuesday, June 16, 2026

8:00 – 5:00 PM	McKinney-Vento Annual Training
Holiday Inn Room A	The McKinney-Vento preconference 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. This year’s annual training will have a strong emphasis on federal compliance under the McKinney-Vento Act. There is no charge for this pre-conference.
8:00 – 5:00 PM	Title I, Part D, Subpart 2: Under the Microscope
Holiday Inn Room B	Step into a focused, high-impact one-day pre-conference built for district grant managers, program directors, and data specialists who are ready to strengthen, refine, and elevate their programs. In a landscape of shifting expectations, evolving monitoring priorities, and a sharpened spotlight on academic outcomes, this session puts every critical component under the microscope, no lab goggles required. You’ll leave confident, compliant, and strategically aligned as we unpack what’s new, what’s required, and what truly drives results for delinquent and at-risk youth.
8:00 – 5:00 PM	CTE Opportunity Gap Analysis Training
Riverton HS Room D	This workshop will support districts and colleges in effectively understanding their data to better identify and close gaps in CTE programs of study. Attendees will receive ready-to-use guides, templates and materials that can be adapted and used by Districts and Colleges to facilitate a gap analysis process at their own district or college. This workshop will provide the support local District and College CTE leaders need to make changes in policy and practice that will improve access to CTE programs of study.
12:00 – 1:00 PM	Lunch Break
1:00 – 5:00 PM	21st Century Community Learning Centers
Riverton HS Room C	The 2026 STAR 21CCLC Pre-Conference is a series of two half-day professional learning sessions designed for Program Directors, Site Coordinators, and Local Evaluators. Tentative June 16 session topics are Grant Close-Out strategies, actionable insights for family and community engagement, and Phase 1 Training for the new data management system. On June 17, please join us for an intensive Grant Writing and Sustainability Workshop focused on securing long-term funding and program stability.

Wednesday, June 17, 2026

8:00 – 12:00 PM	McKinney-Vento Annual Training
Holiday Inn Room A	(Continued)
8:00 – 12:00 PM	21st Century Community Learning Centers
Riverton HS Room C	(Continued)

STAR Sessions

Location: Riverton High School

Wednesday June 17, 2026

12:00 – 1:00 PM	Drop-In Registration
1:00 – 1:30 PM	Welcome and Opening Remarks
Auditorium	Starting Strong: Setting Districts Up for Success
1:45 – 2:45 PM	Targeted Transformation: Aligning MTSS and Mentorship to Your School's Rating
Room A	Data tells a story, but strategy defines the ending. This session focuses on the precision of the Wyoming SSOS, specifically how support is scaled and customized based on school performance ratings (NM, PM, M, and Ex). We will break down how the WDE moves beyond high-level oversight to provide Targeted Transformation. Discover how Progress Monitoring and specialized mentorship are tailored to your specific rating. A key focus will be on leveraging fiscal resources: we'll discuss how to braid and blend State and Federal funding to support your specific District Assessment Systems and intervention needs. Whether your school is striving to move from Not Meeting to Exceeding expectations, learn how to align your financial investments with the SSOS framework to ensure every resource is an investment in excellence.
Beth Lougee Kelly Storebo Micah Becker	
1:45 – 2:45 PM	Title I-A, Fiscal Flexibility
Room B	The session will emphasize the practical "how-to" of Title I flexibility options for school administrators and federal program directors.
Karen Bierhaus	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The Schoolwide Advantage: How to effectively leverage the "40% threshold" and the waiver process to upgrade entire educational programs rather than just pull-out services. ▪ Fiscal Flexibility Decoded: "Supplement, Not Supplant" as a flexibility ▪ Integrated Funding Streams: Strategies for braiding and blending Title I with Titles II, III, and IV to fund comprehensive district goals without the administrative "red tape."

1:45 – 2:45 PM	Essentials of a Title II-A Program
Room C	Does the new K-12 literacy legislation leave you wondering what counts as “supplanting”? Are you questioning if your professional development truly meets the “evidence-based” threshold? You aren’t alone. Join us for “all things Title II-A” as we unpack the 2026-2027 application updates and the statutory requirements you need to know. We will review the basics as well as tackle the real-world questions impacting Wyoming districts today. Learn how to maximize your grant funds to support your teachers and principals while ensuring every dollar contributes to increased student success.
Mary Bravo	
1:45 – 2:45 PM	21CCLC Transitions: Navigating Closeouts and Future-Proofing Your Program
Room D	Change and uncertainty are the realities of federal grant cycles. As current 21CCLC cohorts prepare to sunset, this session provides a clear roadmap for executing clean, compliant grant closeouts. Beyond the closeout process, we will look at the horizon. We will outline a proposed timeline for a new competition, with the crucial caveat that this process is entirely dependent on forthcoming federal appropriations. Learn what financial and partnership data you can gather now to be ready to act quickly if, and when, funding becomes available.
Rosemary McBride	
3:00 – 4:00 PM	Beyond the Baseline: Elevating Every School through the Wyoming SSOS
Room A	In Wyoming, “one size fits all” isn’t just an outdated concept—it’s a barrier to student success. Join the Wyoming Department of Education for a deep dive into the Statewide System of Support (SSOS), a robust framework designed to meet schools exactly where they are. This session explores the comprehensive toolkit available to all Wyoming educators, from the collaborative power of PLCs and MTSS to the personalized guidance of Principal Mentors. We will specifically address the critical role of Resource Allocation, demonstrating how to strategically align Federal and State funds with your School Improvement Planning. Learn how to create true system alignment, ensuring that your budget and your instructional goals are leveraged together to drive sustainable school success.
Beth Lougee Kelly Storebo Micah Becker	
3:00 – 4:00 PM	Title I-A and 1003: Partnerships to Enhance School Improvement
Room B	This session focuses on the critical intersection of federal compliance and meaningful community relations. It is designed to help district leaders transition from “checking a box” to building sustainable ecosystems of support for their most vulnerable students. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The Compliance Bridge ▪ Funding the “Wraparound” Model ▪ Evidence-Based Engagement ▪ The Power of Co-Design ▪ Measuring ROI
Karen Bierhaus	

3:00 – 4:00 PM	Braiding Funds for PreK Success: Sustainable Early Childhood Partnerships and Best Practices
Room C	This presentation will explore successful strategies for partnering across federal funding sources (including Head Start, Title I, TANF, and 21CCLC) to support PreK programs adjacent to or within school districts. Wyoming examples will showcase uses of braided funds, integrating Early Childhood best practices, and addressing data requirements for PreK students. The discussion will also focus on overcoming sustainability challenges in these collaborative efforts.
Helena Wagner	
3:00 – 4:00 PM	Zero Is Still a Number: EL Responsibilities You Can't Ignore
Room D	Even if your EL count is zero, your responsibilities are absolutely not. This session is your friendly reminder that federal requirements don't take a vacation just because your EL roster does. Whether you're actively serving English learners or simply waiting for the next enrollment surprise, this session ensures you're prepared, compliant, and ready to deliver the language programming required and necessary for students to achieve English language proficiency.
Jessica Fancher	
4:15 – 5:15 PM	2026-2028 Perkins Policies and Procedures
Room A	Would you like to refresh your knowledge on Perkins V or are you new to Perkins? This workshop will cover the ins and outs of Perkins V. Each attendee will receive the new 2026-2028 Perkins V Policies and Procedure Guide. This is your chance to talk with the State Supervisor and author while meeting our newest Perkins grant manager!
Michelle Aldrich Amber Holen	
4:15 – 5:15 PM	Barriers and Breakthroughs: Coordinating Cash Requests Across Fiscal and Program Teams
Room C	Join peers from across the state to discuss strategies, streamline your systems, and submit cash requests without the headache of constant returns for additional documentation. This interactive session features a panel of program and fiscal staff sharing field-tested practices for improving communication and building strategies designed for efficiency and first-time approvals.
Mary Bravo	
4:15 – 5:15 PM	Writing GEPA Narratives With Intention: Guidance for the Consolidated Grant Application
Room D	If your GEPA section has ever sounded like it was written by a very polite robot ("We will remove barriers..."), it's time for an upgrade. This session is your chance to turn GEPA from a vague promise into a sharp, intentional, compliance-ready plan that actually reflects how your district serves students who need thoughtful, targeted support.
Jessica Fancher	

Thursday June 18, 2026

8:00 – 10:00 AM	Plenary Session
Auditorium	Time Well Spent: Navigating Requirements for Time and Effort with Ease
Jessica Fancher	"Time and Effort", the three words that carry the weight of the compliance universe. But fear not, this session turns one of the most misunderstood compliance requirements into something you can manage with confidence (and maybe even a little pride). We'll break down the essentials in a way that's practical, straightforward, and hopefully stress-free. By the end, you'll know exactly what's required, why it matters, and how to keep your documentation clean, compliant, and audit-ready.
10:15 – 11:15 AM	New Homeless Program Section in Consolidated Grant Application
Room A	This session outlines the key requirements all school districts must meet when completing the Homeless Program section of the Consolidated Grant Application. Participants will review alignment with the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act, including program requirements, allowable uses of funds, and documentation expectations to ensure compliance and fiscal accountability.
Shannon Cranmore	
10:15 – 11:15 AM	Do More with Title IV-A: Strategies for Compliance and Student Impact
Room B	Join us to learn how you can do more with your Title IV-A grant. This session provides a strategic deep dive into the three core pillars: Well-Rounded Education, Safe and Healthy Students, and the Effective Use of Technology. We will tackle the statutory requirements and spending rules of Title IV-A to help you transform your 2026-2027 application into a strategic, needs-focused roadmap for student success.
Mary Bravo	
10:15 – 11:15 AM	The Mechanics of Indirect Cost
Room C	Where does the money go when it isn't going directly to the classroom? For many LEA administrators, Indirect Cost Rates (IDC) feel like a black box. This session demystifies the 'hidden' side of federal grant management. We will break down the distinction between direct and indirect costs, explore the specific 'restricted rate' requirements for ESSA grants, and provide a step-by-step look at how these funds support the administrative backbone of your district. Whether you are a veteran fiscal officer or a new program director, you will gain the tools to ensure your district is maximizing its federal resources while staying strictly within the bounds of EDGAR and ESSA regulations.
Mark Bowers	
10:15 – 11:15 AM	IDEA Part B & WDE 401: Navigating the Allowable Use of Funds
Room D	Understanding the requirements for the allowable use of federal grant funds and the WDE state reimbursable funds is critical. In this session, we will conduct a review of the IDEA Part B grant allowable use of funds and the guidance document based off of Chapter 44 Rules and allowable expenses within the WDE401 Special Education Reimbursable Collection.
Kimberly Sanford	
11:30 – 1:30 PM	Lunch

1:30 – 3:00 PM	Money, Money, Money
Room A	Are you ready to supercharge your Career and Technical Education (CTE) programs but aren't sure where the fuel—aka the funding—is coming from?
Ilaine Brown	Join us for an energetic deep dive into the diverse landscape of CTE grants! Whether you are looking to launch a new cutting-edge pathway, provide high-impact professional development for your teachers, or build powerful industry partnerships, there is a funding stream waiting for you. This session will strip away the confusion and provide a clear roadmap for both Federal Perkins V and State-funded opportunities.
1:30 – 3:00 PM	Welcome to Consolidated Grants: The Big Picture Without the Panic
Room B	Welcome to the world of Consolidated Grants where the application details matter, the deadlines are real, and the panic is optional. This session walks you through identifying needs, planning with a purpose to improve student outcomes and eGMS basics. We will share page hacks, unpack when to leave comments, and help you tackle budget and program revisions with confidence.
Mary Bravo Jessica Fancher	
1:30 – 3:00 PM	Disintegrating Silos: Collaborative Best Practices for Students in Foster Care
Room C	The Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) made clear that educational stability for students in foster care is a shared responsibility, yet communication among State Educational Agencies (SEAs), Local Educational Agencies (LEAs), and Child Welfare Agencies (CWAs) often remains fragmented. This interactive roundtable invites stakeholders to move beyond compliance checkboxes and toward a fully integrated communication ecosystem. Participants will engage in high-impact discussions to address the “information lag” that occurs during school transitions, explore best practices for automated data-sharing agreements, clarify the role of the Foster Care Point of Contact (POC), and identify strategies for ensuring timely, collaborative Best Interest Determinations (BIDs). The focus is not on what the law says, but on how we make the law work through stronger human and digital connections.
Karen Bierhaus	
1:30 – 3:00 PM	Mastering the IDEA Part B Grant Application
Room D	Prepare for the FFY 2026 grant cycle with a section-by-section walkthrough of the IDEA Part B application. This session simplifies the submission process, explaining exactly what is needed for each component. We will cover how to address indicators with missed state targets, define clear objectives, planned activities, and build a budget.
Kimberly Sanford	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Identify the data required for each section: Objectives, Activities, Budget, MOE, CEIS, and Proportionate Share. ▪ Navigate the technical workflow within the eGMS system. ▪ Understand the full timeline—from initial submission and edits to final WDE approval.

3:15 – 4:15 PM	From Requirements to Results: Expanding What Title III Can Do
Room A	Title III may come with a long list of requirements, but it also comes with real opportunities if you know how to use the funds with intention. This session is your roadmap for turning Title III from “another section of the grant” into a strategic engine for English learner success.
Jessica Fancher	
3:15 – 4:15 PM	Do More with Title IV-A: Strategies for Compliance and Student Impact
Room B	(Repeat)
3:15 – 4:15 PM	Title I-A Application Workshop
Room C	Bring your computer and work on your Title I A application! A walkthrough of the new application sections, best practices to hasten approval, and help with sticky steps and sections!
Karen Bierhaus	
3:15 – 4:15 PM	Enhancing Crisis Management: Using Handle With Care for Trauma-Sensitive School Interventions
Room D	This session will show you how to strengthen a school district’s Crisis Management Plan by establishing protocols and school-community partnerships (law enforcement, schools, mental health) to support students exposed to trauma. The core protocol is a confidential notice from law enforcement—“Handle With Care” —after an incident. Trained school staff respond with trauma-sensitive, student-specific interventions (like re-teaching lessons or postponing testing). HWC is a proactive response focused on supporting the aftermath of trauma, complementing measures like Safe2Tell Wyoming, which focuses on threat prevention.
Kelly Addington	

Friday June 19, 2026

8:00 – 9:00 AM	New Homeless Program Section in Consolidated Grant Application
Room B	(Repeat)
8:00 – 9:00 AM	Essentials of a Title II-A Program
Room C	(Repeat)
8:00 – 9:00 AM	Title I-A Talking Points
Room D	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Regulation Roundup: Summary of key sections of 2 CFR 200 -Uniform Guidance. ▪ Resource Allocation Review: See the new RAR Guidebook and tools to help districts revisit this powerful process. ▪ Monitoring Trends: As Title I A indicators are rewritten, hear about how to best prepare for monitoring in 2026-27 for this year’s work. You will hear about alignment, narratives, and meaningful evaluation. ▪ Lightning Round Q&A: Rapid-fire answers to your specific grant management “pain points.”
Karen Bierhaus	

9:15 – 10:15 AM	From Requirements to Results: Expanding What Title III Can Do (Repeat)
Room A	
9:15 – 10:15 AM	21CCLC Grant Competition for 2027 (Repeat)
Room B	
9:15 – 10:15 AM	The Mechanics of Indirect Cost (Repeat)
Room C	
9:15 – 10:15 AM	Title I-A Family Engagement-Planning Effective Activities Across K-12 in Schoolwide and Targeted Assistance Schools
Room D	<p>The needs of a first-grade family differ greatly from those of a high school junior’s family, yet many Title I programs struggle to tailor engagement strategies across the K–12 continuum. Whether operating a Schoolwide Program (SWP) or a Targeted Assistance Program (TAS), federal law requires that engagement activities be of sufficient size, scope, and quality to improve student achievement. This one-hour workshop offers a blueprint for designing high-impact family activities aligned with student developmental milestones, moving beyond the traditional Annual Title I Meeting to explore family nights for early learners, transition workshops for middle schoolers, and FAFSA or career-pathway partnerships for high school students. Participants should bring their district or school Family Engagement Plan (not policy), as they will incorporate new ideas directly into next year’s plan.</p>
Karen Bierhaus	
10:30 – 11:30 PM	Plenary Session
Auditorium	The Law of the Draw: Cash Request Requirements
ESSA Grants Team	<p>When it comes to federal grants, cash requests aren’t just paperwork, they are the engine that keeps your programs running. The Law of the Draw brings clarity to a process that often feels more complicated than it needs to be, helping you request funds accurately, responsibly, and with full confidence. In this session, we will simplify the rules, discuss timing, and break down the documentation behind every cash request so your district’s submissions are approved quickly and funds continue to flow smoothly into the work they are intended to support.</p>
11:45 – 12:00 PM	Closing Remarks
Auditorium	