

CCSSO COLLABORATIVES



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SCHOOL AND DISTRICT IMPROVEMENT (SDI) COLLABORATIVE

February 25-27, 2025

Virtual Meeting

The Council of Chief State School Officers is excited to host our Winter Collaborative meeting for the School and District Improvement (SDI) Collaborative on a virtual conference platform.

Registration is required to access the meeting sessions.



Please note the Twitter symbols indicate which sessions are open or closed to social media.

COLLABORATIVE OVERVIEW

The School & District Improvement (SDI) Collaborative is committed to providing high-quality educational opportunities, resources and support to schools and students across the country.

MEETING OBJECTIVES

- ☐ Provide peer-to-peer learning opportunities for SEAs seeking to improve CSI and TSI schools.

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- ☐ Identify promising practices across SEAs and external partners in supporting CSI and TSI schools.
- ☐ Identify resources, tools, and other materials that could support SEA school improvement efforts

Advisor: Carlas McCauley, carlaslamarmccauley@gmail.com

Liaison: Aaron Fettgather, CCSSO, Aaron.fettgather@ccsso.org

Day 1: Tuesday, February 25, 2025

11:30 a.m. - Noon EST

Explore Virtual Conference Space

Please use this time to check out the virtual conference space, preview the Innovation Hub, and visit the Information Desk with any questions before programming begins.

11:55 a.m. EST

Doors Open

Members will be able to join 5 minutes prior to Session 1 to enter the virtual room and get settled prior to official programming.

Noon - 12:15 p.m. EST

Welcome and Overview

Carlos McCauley, SDI Advisor

12:15 - 1:45 p.m. EST

Navigating the Evaluation Continuum to Improve Education Efficiency and Effectiveness

Caitlin Scott, Director, Marzano Research

Enid Rosario-Ramos, Senior Researcher, Marzano Research

How do you measure, assess or understand school improvement impacts? This session will focus on the continuum of school improvement evaluation.

1:45 - 2 p.m. EST

Break

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2 - 2:30 p.m. EST

Explore the Innovation Hub/Break

Please use this time between live sessions to explore other areas of the virtual conference space, including the Innovation Hub. This space has several virtual exhibit booths filled with information, resources, videos, and live representatives from some of the leading organizations in PK-12 education.

2:25 p.m. EST

Doors Open

Members will be able to join 5 minutes prior to the session to enter the virtual room and get settled prior to official programming.

2:30 - 4 p.m. EST

Wells and Fences: Reimagining School Improvement Through Sustainable Systems

Andy Swanson, Director of Transformation Strategy

Nicole Monet, Executive Director, School and District Transformation

Lindsey Jaeckel, Assistant Commissioner, School Quality and Support

Carol Mehesy, School and District Program Coordinator

This session explores how the Colorado Department of Education continues to work to move from restrictive, compliance-driven systems to supportive, sustainable practices that draw schools and districts toward meaningful improvement. Just as outback ranchers rely on wells to meet their cattle's needs and less on fences to corral them, effective school improvement in 2025 depends on building systems that foster collaboration, coherence, and capacity. Participants will reflect on strategies like short-cycle planning, bright spot identification, aligned grant funding, and district

partnerships to create "deep wells" that sustain improvement efforts. Together, we'll identify how to replace the "fences" of accountability with innovative approaches that ensure schools thrive. Specifically, this session will highlight the development of CDE's Transformation Network, a collaborative, performance-focused initiative that has supported over 100 schools in exiting accountability systems along with the current work of aligning grant resources in a dual identification system, focusing on a tiered system of support that works to serve LEA's as the lever of change, aligning state and federal school improvement grant funding, and reforming improvement planning for wide-scale impact. Participants will examine the balance between accountability statutes and support systems, discuss lessons learned from CDE's journey, and identify actionable strategies to empower districts as the levers of change. Together, we'll reflect on building coherent systems, addressing gaps, and scaling bright spots for lasting impact.

4 - 4:15 p.m. EST

Break/Transition

4:15 - 5 p.m. EST

CCSSO Welcome + Opening Plenary: State Leadership in a Changing Federal Landscape

Join CCSSO's Federal Relations team for a federal update and to learn more about how CCSSO manages transitions in Congress and the Administration.

DAY 2: Wednesday, February 26, 2025

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11:30 a.m. - Noon EST

Explore Virtual Conference Space

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11:55 a.m. EST

Doors Open

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Noon - 1:30 p.m. EST

Indiana's Next Generation SIG

Eva Gossard, Director of School Support and Transformation, Indiana Department of Education

This session will focus on Indiana's Next Generation School Improvement Grants (SIG) efforts. Next Generation SIG is distinct from prior school improvement programs that take a more programmatic approach to school improvement. Rather, Next Generation SIG takes a systemic approach to school transformation designed to rethink and reconsider the fundamental structures that exist within underperforming schools to better meet student needs.

1:30 - 2 p.m. EST

Break

2 - 2:30 p.m. EST

Explore the Innovation Hub/Break

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representatives from some of the leading organizations in PK-12 education.

2:25 p.m. EST

Doors Open

Members will be able to join 5 minutes prior to the session to enter the virtual room and get settled prior to official programming.

2:30 - 3:45 p.m. EST

The Characteristics of SIP Templates

Bryan VanGronigen, University of Delaware

What is included in school improvement plans? This session will share the approaches that states are taking when developing school improvement plans as a strategy to drive change.

3:45 - 4 p.m. EST

Break

4 - 5:15 p.m. EST

Coordinating ED Programs to Support School Improvement

Melissa Junge, Federal Education Group

Sheara Krvaric, Federal Education Group

This session will focus on how SEAs can support their LEAs in coordinating their U.S. Department of Education (ED) grants to support students. ED grants can be spent on many more activities than is commonly realized, and ED grant rules affect how LEAs spend state and local funds as

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well, so this session will explore common misunderstandings
and opportunities for more strategic spending

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DAY 3: Thursday, February 27, 2025

11:30 a.m. - Noon EST

Explore Virtual Conference Space

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12:55 p.m. EST

Doors Open

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1 - 2:30 p.m. EST

The Resource Allocation Process: New York State Education Department

Theresa Billington, Assistant Commissioner of Accountability, New York State Education Department

Stephen Earley, Director Field Support Services, New York State Education Department

This session will highlight the efforts of the New York State Education Department to design and develop a resource allocation process to support comprehensive support and improvement (CSI) schools while working with districts.

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2:30 - 3 p.m. EST

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3 - 4:15 p.m. EST

New Jersey's Levers for School & District Turnaround

Azan Waddell, Director Office of Comprehensive Support

Chimaobi Amutah, State Transformation Specialist

Cory Radisch, Statewide Continuous Improvement Specialist

Cassandra Johnson, Systems Leader and School and District Improvement Specialist

This session will explore the NJDOE's key levers of support for improvement to facilitate capacity building of school and district leadership.