



2025 CASE CONVENTION

JULY 23 - 25, 2025 | BRECKENRIDGE, CO

BREAKOUT SESSIONS

With over 160 session proposals submitted, CASE has narrowed it down to the best of the best. We were pleased to have a diverse range of proposals from which to select our final breakout line up; it's our goal to ensure that each of our CASE departments will have a variety of sessions to choose from at the Convention.

PRESENTERS	SESSION TITLE	DESCRIPTION	DAY/TIME	VENUE/ROOM
Dr. Kirk Henwood, South Routt RE-3; Dr. Brian Hill, Mesa County Valley School District 51; Coulter Bump, Caplan & Earnest LLC	A Board of Education Handbook: A Superintendent's Best Tool for Working with Board Members	School boards play a critical role in ensuring the effectiveness of school districts. Yet, school boards and school board members receive some of the least professional preparation and ongoing professional learning in the educational system. A school board handbook is an excellent tool to provide school board members with the working knowledge they need to be able to do their jobs effectively. This session will offer real-life, practical examples of how board handbooks have benefited school districts and superintendents, as well as context for why handbooks are so helpful from a legal perspective.	Wednesday, July 23, 10:30 AM - 11:45 AM	The Village Forest Room
Andrew Roth, PERA	A Conversation with PERA Executive Director Andrew Roth	Join us for a discussion with PERA Executive Director Andrew Roth about the current priorities of PERA and his vision for the organization moving forward. You'll have the opportunity to ask questions and share your perspective on timely PERA issues and hear from Andrew about PERA's increased focus on greater transparency.	Wednesday, July 23, 10:30 AM - 11:45 AM	Alpenrock Slopeside & Windfall
Dr. Rebecca Albert-Vollrath, Weld County School District RE-5J; Scott Dangel, Treanor; CarrieBeth Ruzicka, Treanor	A District's Vision for Change and Community Alignment: CTE Integration through Stakeholder Collaboration	The successful integration of Career and Technical Education (CTE) into traditional high school curriculums is an evolving concept requiring careful planning, innovation, and flexibility. Located in Johnstown, Colorado, Weld County SD RE-5J materialized its aspiration for an integrated CTE high school with the construction of Roosevelt High School. Pairing consensus-driven CTE initiatives with design principles that celebrate innovation and pragmatism, a new model for comprehensive high school education was born. Using the school as a case study, we will showcase how district and community alignment created CTE programming that reflects its local context while providing students with relevant career pathways. We'll discuss stakeholder engagement, the CTE director's role, and how Roosevelt High School capitalized on the benefits of CTE integration.	Wednesday, July 23, 10:30 AM - 11:45 AM	Beaver Run Beaver Den
Kate Hudnut, Teach Colorado; Christine McConnell, Jeffco Public Schools; Dana Curton, St. Vrain Valley Schools; May Wescott, Weld County School District RE-3J; Tamara Durbin, NE BOCES; Dr. Robert Fulton, Colorado Center for Rural Education; Heather Grantham, CDE	Building a Student-to-Teacher Pathway: A Panel Discussion	Join us for an interactive panel discussion with Dr. Robert Fulton (CCRE), Kate Hudnut (TEACH Colorado), Heather Grantham (CDE), and student-to-teacher program leaders from Colorado districts. Discover how programs like Teacher Cadet, Educators Rising, ASCENT, Concurrent Enrollment, P-TEACH, and Grow Your Own support high school students in becoming teachers through early exposure, college credit, and affordable pathways. Panelists will share case studies and strategies for designing, marketing, and implementing sustainable teacher pipelines in both rural and urban districts. Engage in an interactive discussion and gain practical tools to strengthen teacher recruitment efforts, address shortages, and develop effective "grow-your-own" pathways to support the next generation of educators across Colorado.	Wednesday, July 23, 10:30 AM - 11:45 AM	Beaver Run Imperial Ballroom
Dr. Nicole Paxton, Harrison School District 2; Dr. Angela Valdez, Harrison School District 2; Aaron Vandewarker, Harrison School District 2	Building Strong Foundations: The Critical Role of Instructional Frameworks	A strong instructional framework is the cornerstone of an effective school environment, setting the stage for academic achievement, teacher success, and student engagement. This session will explore the essential role of instructional frameworks in building a cohesive, high-quality learning experience for all students. We will delve into the benefits of adopting a clear and structured approach to instruction, demonstrate how to align frameworks with school-wide goals, and showcase real-life examples of frameworks that have fostered growth and success. You will leave with a deeper understanding of how to create and implement instructional frameworks that provide the foundation for academic excellence and sustainable school improvement.	Wednesday, July 23, 10:30 AM - 11:45 AM	Beaver Run Summit Gallery, Peaks 6-8
Dr. David Bain, Houghton Mifflin Harcourt	Driving Student Success Through Ongoing MTSS System Review	This session explores how Colorado districts use student outcome data to design MTSS systems tailored to the unique needs of their students. Participants will also gain insight into how continuous monitoring supports the effectiveness of MTSS systems in improving student learning. In this session, participants will: 1. Learn an effective way to create an MTSS system of support (with models of districts over Colorado). 2. Analyze their CMAS data and other data points they have available to map out their current MTSS system of support for all population of students 3. Analyze and reflect on their current MTSS system of support in order to determine if their current structure is moving students and closing gaps based on assessment data. 4. Reflect on ways district admin can continue to monitor their MTSS system of support through the year and make adjustments.	Wednesday, July 23, 10:30 AM - 11:45 AM	Alpenrock Gilden



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Dr. Karla Loría, Adams 14 School District; Dr. Cicely Bailey, Adams 14 School District; Garrett Douglas, Adams 14 School District; Chris Garcia, Adams 14 School District	Driving Success: A Remarkable Increase in Adams 14 School District's 4-Year Graduation Rate	Among the 10 Colorado school districts with the highest percentages of students of color and more than 1,000 students, the Adams 14 School District saw the biggest increase in the 4-year graduation rate, from about 69% in 2023 to about 76% in 2024. In this session, we will examine the impressive rise in 4-year graduation rates, making this year's graduation rate the district's highest since 2002. We'll explore the policies, programs, and community-driven initiatives that have contributed to this success through a panel setting. You will gain valuable insights into how intentional strategies can help close graduation gaps and create pathways for success in diverse student populations. Time for questions and dialogue will ensure you walk away with practical strategies to consider for your own district and will be able to ask questions to the panel.	Wednesday, July 23, 10:30 AM - 11:45 AM	The Village Aspen
Lynda Espinoza Idle, Adams 14 School District; Melania Araya-Schierholz, Adams 14 School District; Monica Hurtado De Mendoza, Adams 14 School District	Equitable MTSS Process for Linguistically Gifted Students That Supports Appropriate Special Education Referrals	This presentation explores how educators can use comparative data within the MTSS process to better meet the needs of Multilingual Learners (MLs) suspected of having a learning disability. The use of comparative data is essential in making informed decisions when referring this subgroup, thus reducing the over/under disproportionate identification of MLs in special education. Sit in on this session to explore how educators can collect, analyze, and use comparative data to meet the needs of ML students in making informed decisions about referrals, and factors to be aware of when engaged in that process.	Wednesday, July 23, 10:30 AM - 11:45 AM	Beaver Run Summit Gallery, Peak 12
Erin Kane, Douglas County School District	Leading a Divided Community	In today's polarized society, serving as a public education leader is more challenging than ever. All of us are tasked with uniting our communities and serving as a role model for our students, staff and community, but bringing disparate groups together can be very difficult when there are competing views and strong opinions that conflict with one another. Join us at this session for a practical and strategic discussion about the strategies that work to begin shifting the conversation from division to unity. Whether you are a building-level or central office leader, this is an issue that leaders across all levels are dealing with, and you'll walk away from this session with some fresh insights that you can bring back and implement right away in your own community.	Wednesday, July 23, 10:30 AM - 11:45 AM	The Village Tarn
Dr. Katie Jarnot, Eagle County RE-50	Leading Amidst the Politicalization of Public Education in America	This session will provide tools that school and district leaders can utilize to positively engage with community members in any highly politicized environment. Dr. Jarnot will provide five lessons that have been successfully used to engage the public on topics such as Critical Race Theory, challenges to curriculum, a global pandemic, teaching controversial and sensitive topics, and LGBTQ+ student rights. The lessons include student voice, being invitational, the rights and responsibilities of educators, students, and parents, and creating an environment for positive interaction. She will also share ideas for self-care, which is especially important for leaders during turbulent times. Leaders will leave the session feeling confident that they can navigate whatever controversy may arise.	Wednesday, July 23, 10:30 AM - 11:45 AM	Alpenrock Timberline
Dr. Colleen O'Neil, Colorado State University Global	Navigating the Rapids: Proactive Policy Advocacy for Colorado School and District Leaders	Join us in a transformative session designed for Colorado school leaders navigating the turbulent waters of educational policy changes at both the federal and state levels. This dynamic and interactive session will arm you with essential tools and strategies for effective advocacy. Learn through engaging with real-world case studies and participate in hands-on activities that will enhance your ability to influence policies impacting your students, staff, and community. Empower yourself and your district with the knowledge to proactively shape the educational landscape. Don't miss this opportunity to make a difference in your community!	Wednesday, July 23, 10:30 AM - 11:45 AM	The Village Elevation
Adrienne Cruz, CDE; Victory Molina, CDE; Trish Malik, CDE; Zack Allen, CDE Ben Palmer, Weld County School District RE-3J; Kimba Rael, Centennial School District R-1; Kenneth Davis, Lamar RE-2	Rural Principals & the Power of Connection	This joint session between CDE and rural leaders across Colorado tackles a variety of topics including chronic absenteeism, staffing in a rural community, student behaviors, and student engagement. Hear from a panel of rural principals and superintendents as they share how they gained peer support, leadership growth, and real solutions to these common challenges. Experience a hands-on networking activity and learn how to join the CDE rural leadership learning cohort for the 2025-26 school year. Leave with new connections, strategies, and a community that understands your journey. Leading in a rural setting can feel isolating, but you don't have to do it alone.	Wednesday, July 23, 10:30 AM - 11:45 AM	Beaver Run Coppertop
Damon Smerchek, Amplify Education	Students Doing the Talking are Students Doing the Learning: Using Math Language Routines	Sense-making in the math classroom does not happen by following a process to get answers; it happens when students get to experiment with ideas, express those ideas, and evolve in their thinking. Math language routines provide the structure for students to move from random ideas to the most efficient way to think about problem-solving. Engage in mathematical problem-solving using math language routines to get practical experience with how they can be implemented to boost conversations your students are having in the sense-making process. See how these routines will lead to a student-centered, student-focused, and student-driven environment that encourages all of your students to become confident mathematicians.	Wednesday, July 23, 10:30 AM - 11:45 AM	Alpenrock Sterling



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Dr. Diane Lauer, St. Vrain Valley Schools; Ruby Bode, Estes Park School District R-3; Dr. Becky Langlois, Weld County RE-3J School District; Bianca Porter, Adams 12 Five Star Schools	Take Action! Grow Your Own Teachers	Discover how districts are implementing P-TEACH, a revolutionary approach to recruit, inspire, and “grow your own” next generation of outstanding teachers. Through an Opportunity Now grant, we’ve successfully replicated P-TEACH in small rural and larger metro districts like Adams 12, Estes Park, and Weld RE-3J. High school students and classified staff can earn up to 49 tuition-free college credits towards a bachelor’s degree in education while sharpening their skills through paid work-based learning opportunities, active mentorship, and layered apprenticeships. We quadruple the time spent in the field compared to traditional teacher prep programs, resulting in experienced teachers on Day One! Take action - join us to become part of our P-TEACH network and build your own teacher pipeline today.	Wednesday, July 23, 10:30 AM - 11:45 AM	Alpenrock Northstar
Dr. Shane Naterman, Capturing Kids’ Hearts	The Big Three: Leading with Heart	Leading in education presents an array of challenges and opportunities for growth. In this session, Dr. Shane Naterman will unpack three foundational tools to further develop relational capacity with your team, foster a strong culture, and bring out the best in your students, staff, and communities. We will incorporate stories from a panel of educators from around the state who are seeing great results from implementing these tools.	Wednesday, July 23, 10:30 AM - 11:45 AM	Beaver Run Summit Gallery, Peaks 9&10
Liliana Sanchez Cruz, Denver Public Schools; Dr. Patricia Hurrieta, Denver Public Schools; Drew Shultz, Denver Public Schools	The La Raza Report in Action: Transforming Outcomes for Latine Communities	Join us for a critical conversation on the findings of the <i>La Raza Report</i> and their impact on Latine communities in Denver Public Schools. This session will highlight the report’s significance and how our equity-driven, systemic approach is working to eliminate barriers and improve outcomes for Latine students. You will gain insight into our district-wide school support strategy—examining progress to date, ongoing challenges, and next steps in our plan to accelerate the learning trajectories of Latine students.	Wednesday, July 23, 10:30 AM - 11:45 AM	The Village Blue Spruce
Bruce Jones, Cherry Creek School District; Reid Heller, Cherry Creek School District	The Power of Beliefs: Creating a Culture Where the Community and Students Thrive	Our beliefs shape the culture of our schools and determine how we support students and the broader community. This session challenges educators and leaders to shift from a policy-driven approach to one that centers on restorative practices, trauma-informed care, social-emotional learning, and equity. By aligning disciplinary responses and student support with our core values, we create learning environments where students feel seen, heard, and valued. Join us to explore practical strategies for putting beliefs into action and cultivating school cultures grounded in care, connection, and inclusion.	Wednesday, July 23, 10:30 AM - 11:45 AM	Beaver Run Summit Gallery Peak 11
Kristin Drury, Douglas County School District; Dr. Robert Thelen, Douglas County School District	The Secret to Success: Leveraging PLCs with Collective Goals	Research supports the idea that professional learning communities are one of the most effective levers for improving student achievement. However, too often, teacher teams engage in co“BLAB”oration rather than true collaboration, limiting their impact on student learning. This session will examine recent research conducted within a local school district, identifying collective goals as the key factor in transforming professional learning communities from light to right. Participants will explore strategies for establishing meaningful, outcome-driven goals that enhance instructional practices and student success. By the end of this session, you will gain a deeper understanding of how to shift your professional learning community culture, foster authentic collaboration, and implement collective goals that lead to sustained improvement in student achievement.	Wednesday, July 23, 10:30 AM - 11:45 AM	Beaver Run Base Nine Lounge
Dr. Jared Cooney Horvath, LME Global	WORKSHOP: Are Geniuses Born or Made? And What Does This Mean for Schools?	For centuries, this question has sparked debate: are some people simply born brilliant, or are we all equipped with the same raw potential? In this engaging and thought-provoking workshop, we’ll tackle this question and trace its implications all the way back to schools. We’ll kick things off with the debut screening of Episode 1 of a brand-new documentary, <i>The Genius Code</i> . This episode dives into the nature of intelligence, where IQ comes from, and the role education plays in shaping human potential. From there, we’ll shift gears into creativity—what it really is, how it works, and what it takes to engender it. Finally, we’ll bring everything full circle: What do concepts like IQ and creativity actually mean for educators and students in real-world classrooms? If genius can be made, what will it take for schools to become the places where that happens?	Wednesday, July 23, 1:30 PM - 3:30 PM	Alpenrock Slopeside & Windfall
Jenny Rothboeck, NW BOCES; Dr. James Chamberlin, East Grand School District	A Case for Highly Effective Principal Learning Communities	Join us to experience the components of the principal learning community in an immersive, interactive, and reflective session. You’ll learn about the seven-year principal learning community and the research project that includes the experiences of more than 50 principals in northwest Colorado, and hear how to plan, facilitate, and reflect on principal learning. We’ll build a deeper understanding about how six leadership dispositions ground leaders in the complex work they do, and how that translates into higher levels of effectiveness. This is a unique and effective model to shift thinking regarding what principals really need, and one that other districts can replicate.	Wednesday, July 23, 1:30 PM - 2:45 PM	Beaver Run Summit Gallery, Peaks 9&10
Tracie Rainey, Colorado School Finance Project; Justin Silverstein, Colorado School Finance Project	Adequacy Studies Are Completed, So Now What?	The Legislature commissioned two adequacy studies which analyzed what resources are needed for students to meet their academic goals set through accountability and accreditation. Come learn about the findings and see what this might mean for your district. Given this information for the state, what is next in the effort to obtain adequate and equitable funding for Colorado school districts? How can a plan for the future of education funding move forward? We need your input to help think through this important discussion.	Wednesday, July 23, 1:30 PM - 2:45 PM	The Village Forest Room



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Mason Moses, HUB International	CASE Member Financial Benefit Services: PERA, Social Security, Retirement Accounts, and What You Need to Know!	CASE has partnered with HUB International to provide financial services to our members to help them be financially well. Educators commonly believe that PERA is all they need for retirement; however, more is typically required if a person wants to live the type of retirement they desire. This session will discuss those benefits and the importance of financial planning to educators by focusing on PERA, the Social Security Fairness Act, supplemental retirement plans (403(b), 457, 401(k)), and how they work together to make a solid retirement for educators. This session will also discuss what districts can do to improve retirement plan offerings for their staff to make them more competitive in attracting and retaining teachers.	Wednesday, July 23, 1:30 PM - 2:45 PM	Beaver Run Base Nine Lounge
Dr. Dylan Connell, Durango School District; Dr. Karen Cheser, Durango School District; Dr. Laurie Rossback, Durango School District	Deepening Systems and Policy for Students' Lifelong Success	This presentation invites school leaders to embark on an exciting journey of redefining what it truly means for our students to succeed, and to re-engineer our organizations for student success even when budgets are lean. Achieving this vision requires us to look at our existing systems, policies, and practices with fresh eyes, aligning them to the multifaceted realities and aspirations of today's learners. By thoughtfully examining our current approaches and focusing on what matters most, we can ensure our efforts are having the greatest possible impact.	Wednesday, July 23, 1:30 PM - 2:45 PM	The Village Tarn
Carly Tebbetts, Milliken	Embedding Continuous Improvement for Sustainable Excellence	Discover how Milliken & Company is transforming its operations through the Milliken Performance System (MPS)—a strategic framework rooted in continuous improvement, zero loss thinking, and change management. This session explores Milliken's journey from manufacturing-focused CI to an enterprise-wide culture of Operational Excellence. Learn how leadership engagement, strategic alignment, and a focus on eliminating waste are driving measurable results and long-term growth.	Wednesday, July 23, 1:30 PM - 2:45 PM	The Village Conifer
Dr. Brian Kosena, Westminster Public Schools; Dr. Jeni Gotto, Westminster Public Schools	Leveraging the High-Reliability Schools Framework to Align School District Initiatives	This interactive workshop explores how the High Reliability Schools (HRS) framework can serve as a foundation for aligning district-wide initiatives to clear, high-level goals. Participants will learn how to customize HRS leading indicators and sub-indicators to reflect their district's unique priorities and challenges. Using examples from Westminster Public Schools, the session will provide practical strategies for adapting HRS indicators to drive systems alignment, ensuring coherent implementation across departments and schools. Leave with actionable ideas for modifying and applying HRS principles to your own contexts.	Wednesday, July 23, 1:30 PM - 2:45 PM	Alpenrock Timberline
Mat Aubuchon, Westminster Public Schools; Priscilla Hopkins, Denver Public Schools; Leigh Pytliński, Jeffco Public Schools	Leveraging Universal Preschool to Help our Youngest Learners Prepare for Kindergarten	Please join us for an interactive discussion with three metro area school districts on how they are leveraging the new Universal Preschool (UPK) programming to help prepare our youngest learners for entry to kindergarten. This session will include both presentation and conversation around best practices in ECE, early literacy, and social/emotional development and how to leverage existing instructional resources with new program requirements from UPK.	Wednesday, July 23, 1:30 PM - 2:45 PM	The Village Aspen
Adrianna Nickell, Fort Morgan School District; Rob Sanders, Fort Morgan School District; Rena Frasco, Fort Morgan School District	Love + Accountability = One District's Multi-Tiered System of Support for Attendance	Chronic absenteeism impedes student success, and this session will equip you with a data-driven Multi-Tiered System of Support (MTSS) to combat it. You'll explore practical strategies for Tier 1 universal attendance promotion, Tier 2 targeted interventions for at-risk students, and Tier 3 intensive support for chronically absent learners. Come learn how we use data and family and community partnerships in our attendance support strategies, including our Attendance Support Community panel. You will have the opportunity to hear firsthand experiences and insights from administrators at the district, secondary, and elementary levels. Leave the session with tangible resources, including Student Support Plan templates, attendance info one-pagers, and communication strategies, which will empower you to create a culture of consistent attendance.	Wednesday, July 23, 1:30 PM - 2:45 PM	Beaver Run Summit Gallery, Peaks 6-8
Shelly Landgraf, Pure HR Solutions	Making Personnel Personal: HR's Tricks & Tips to be a Successful Leader in Your District	Are you new to a leadership role in your district or seeking a refresher on navigating the complexities of personnel management? Today's district leaders serve as pivotal extensions of their human resources departments, playing a crucial role in the success and well-being of staff members. Join us for a session focused on the employee life cycle, spanning from attracting and recruiting to hiring and retaining talent. We'll provide you with essential HR strategies and best practices to support employees at all levels. This presentation will equip you with actionable tools and resources to apply immediately upon returning to your office. We look forward to empowering you with knowledge that strengthens your leadership and fosters a thriving environment for all district personnel.	Wednesday, July 23, 1:30 PM - 2:45 PM	Alpenrock Gilden
Noah Hurianek, College Board; Sarah Orlovski, College Board; Lindsay Scurto, College Board	Maximizing Impact: Effective Use of the SAT Score Reports & Updates	Join the Colorado Department of Education and the College Board for an engaging session on the Digital SAT Suite administration. Hear the latest updates to the SAT suite and explore how the K-12 Score Reporting Portal empowers educators to make data-driven decisions. We'll also discuss using the reports to target instructional outcomes for all students. Discover how these reports can enhance instructional strategies and planning, and learn about opportunities to expand access and optimize student success through targeted improvements.	Wednesday, July 23, 1:30 PM - 2:45 PM	Beaver Run Summit Gallery, Peak 12



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Eric Owen, Hayden School District RE-1	Navigating the Shift: From Building-Level Leadership to Superintendency in a Small, Rural District	This presentation explores the challenges and successes of transitioning from a building-level leadership role in a medium-sized district to the superintendency in a small, rural district. Participants will hear about firsthand experiences, including insights into the shift from making day-to-day operational decisions to overseeing complex district-wide systems. We will discuss the unique dynamics of rural communities, resource management, and the need for systems thinking and strategic leadership. Learn practical strategies for navigating this transition, including the importance of delegation, building relationships, and self-care. Ultimately, this presentation aims to equip aspiring superintendents and current leaders with the tools and mindset necessary to succeed in a district-level leadership role, especially in smaller, rural settings.	Wednesday, July 23, 1:30 PM - 2:45 PM	The Village Blue Spruce
Amy Miglinas, CO Office of School Safety; Cary Lynch, CO Office of School Safety; Kelly Donnelly, CO Office of School Safety	Non-Suicidal Self-Injury and Suicide for Non-Mental Health School Staff	Non-suicidal self-injury (NSSI) is an increasingly common behavior among school-aged youth and occurs with regularity in middle and high school settings. It is uncommon, however, for schools to have well-articulated protocols for preventing, detecting, and intervening for students with self-injurious behavior. This session will discuss the nuances of self-injurious behavior and give an overview of best practices for detecting and responding to self-injury in secondary school settings. Connections to suicide behavior will also be explored. You won't want to miss this timely discussion about how to help keep our middle and high school students safe.	Wednesday, July 23, 1:30 PM - 2:45 PM	Alpenrock Sterling
Dr. Kate Kinsella, Houghton Mifflin Harcourt and San Francisco State University	Proven Practices to Engage ALL Learners in Lesson Interactions that Build Academic Language and Literacy Foundations	No child speaks the academic language as their home language, but some enter the classrooms with more exposure to the vocabulary and sentence structures that support standards-aligned reading and academic success. With a nationwide emphasis on building foundational literacy skills across grade levels, equal attention must be devoted to building confident academic communication skills in students. Across the school day, every student must be supported in engaging in lesson discussions that build critical conceptual and linguistic foundations. However, orchestrating classroom interactions that significantly improve a striving reader or English learner's language and literacy skills is both a science and an art.	Wednesday, July 23, 1:30 PM - 2:45 PM	Beaver Run Imperial Ballroom
Dr. Wendy Birhanzel, Harrison School District 2; Dr. Greg Rabenhorst, Weld County School District RE-3J; Brian Hill, Mesa County Valley School District 51; Dr. Christy Sinner, McPherson & Jacobson LLC	So, You Think You Want to Become a Superintendent?	This session is designed to offer an opportunity for leaders who are possibly interested in pursuing a superintendency to learn more about the role from current superintendents in urban, rural, suburban, large, and small districts. "So, You Think You Want to be a Superintendent," will offer a general overview and ample opportunity for dialogue and questions. This session will also be shared at the 2025 CASE Principal Conference. Interested participants may then want to engage in a deeper dive into the topic at the 2026 CASE Winter Leadership Conference through its annual Exploring the Superintendency day-long pre-conference session.	Wednesday, July 23, 1:30 PM - 2:45 PM	Beaver Run Summit Gallery Peak 11
Emmalee Owens, Douglas County School District	Supporting Struggling Teachers	When teachers face challenges, how can we effectively support them? This workshop dives into actionable solutions using as a guide Knoster's Framework for Change. We'll explore the key elements that can spark meaningful progress and help struggling teachers regain their footing. Join us to discover the common reasons behind teacher struggles and collaborate on practical strategies to create small, impactful wins. Together, we'll brainstorm ways to shift the trajectory from frustration to growth. You'll walk away with a toolbox of ready-to-use strategies—perfect for administrators and coaches eager to make an immediate, positive impact. Don't miss this opportunity to transform challenges into opportunities for success!	Wednesday, July 23, 1:30 PM - 2:45 PM	Beaver Run Beaver Den
Amber Elias, Colorado Education Initiative; Karen Quanbeck, Colorado Education Initiative	This Isn't Business as Usual: Pursuing the Big Three in an Evolving Policy Landscape	We are halfway through 2025, and our state and federal contexts look much different than this time last year. We have a redefined vision for high school revolving around The Big Three (work-based learning, aligned college credit, industry credentials) opportunities, a new state accountability system, and streamlined funding for postsecondary and workforce readiness programs in the context of an ever-tightening budget situation in Colorado. Add to that an evolving federal context that often leaves more questions than answers, and there's great need to come together with fellow district and school leaders to talk about the conditions, opportunities, and barriers as we navigate the new policy landscape for high school measures and funding. Leave with ideas, a sense of community, and themes to better inform partnerships going forward.	Wednesday, July 23, 1:30 PM - 2:45 PM	Beaver Run Coppertop
Gin Randolph, Uncompahgre BOCES; Dr. Ken Haptonstall, Colorado River BOCES; Dr. Kirk Henwood, South Routt RE-3; Dan Morris, Colorado Digital Learning Solutions; Patty Quinones, Colorado Education Initiative	Utilizing AI in Education: Trends, Challenges, and Leadership Strategies for 2025-26	<p>This session provides district and school leaders with an up-to-date overview of the evolving role of AI in education. We'll examine how AI is shaping digital literacy, instructional practices, and school operations—and discuss the latest policy developments, strategies for engaging parents, and approaches to supporting responsible use by students and educators in small and large districts statewide.</p> <p>This session will explore key trends for the 2025-26 school year, identify pressing challenges, and consider actionable next steps for AI integration at the district and school levels. The session will also feature lessons learned from Colorado districts over the past year, sharing real-world examples of how educators and students are using and viewing AI to enhance teaching, learning, and administrative functions.</p>	Wednesday, July 23, 1:30 PM - 2:45 PM	Alpenrock Northstar



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Joe McBreen, St. Vrain Valley Schools; Danny Hernandez, St. Vrain Valley Schools	Behind the Lights: Exclusive Backstage Access to the High School Drone Performance Team	On the hour at 3:00 PM, 4:00 PM, 5:00 PM and 6:00 PM CASE attendees are invited to a rare, open-access experience with the world's first high school drone performance team. Meet at the Beaver Run Tent and walk with members of the drone team to the launch site. Go behind the ropes, and see what it takes to make a drone light show happen, including meeting the student tech leads and exploring the networks, servers, and systems used to make the drone show happen. This is your chance to witness the detailed preparation up close!	Wednesday, July 23, 3:00 PM - 7:00 PM	Beaver Run Tent
David Grawbowski, South Routt RE-3; Nicole Petersen, Greeley-Evans School District 6; Dr. Angela Valdez, Harrison School District 2; Jeremy LaCrosse, St. Vrain Valley Schools	Advancing Excellence in the Middle Grades	Middle-grade leadership matters! Spark your leadership with insights from Colorado principals who lead nationally recognized schools where young adolescents thrive. Discover their proven strategies to build vibrant school cultures, outstanding academics, and innovative programs that support student potential. Together, we'll unpack replicable programs that enhance student well-being, motivation, engagement and future-readiness. We'll also discuss strategies to create a sense of urgency and action among faculty and staff so that the drive for excellence becomes ingrained in the school's fabric. Get ready for a lively, interactive session filled with actionable insights that will equip you with ideas and inspiration to ignite your school's success.	Wednesday, July 23, 3:15 PM - 4:30 PM	Beaver Run Summit Gallery Peak 11
Maria Martin, Cherry Creek School District; Caitlin Pfeiffer, Elevation Solutions	Building a Self-Service Helpdesk System and Empowering K-12 Innovation for Districts	Learn how Cherry Creek School District (CCSD) is transforming help desk, ticketing, and knowledge base systems through innovative self-service tools and intelligent data management practices. By streamlining processes and automating workflows, CCSD is improving access to information for staff, students and families while supporting long-term district sustainability and growth. This session will also explore how CCSD leverages Salesforce as a district-wide platform to support broader initiatives, including a student portal and jobs board. Designed to connect students with personalized postsecondary opportunities—from apprenticeships to internships—this tool helps students align their strengths and interests with real-world pathways. Join us to discover how powerful, user-friendly tools put in the hands of your community can foster equity, efficiency, and engagement across your district.	Wednesday, July 23, 3:15 PM - 4:30 PM	Alpenrock Gilden
Michelle Weinraub, Cherry Creek School District; Christopher Smith, Cherry Creek School District; Dr. Andrew Russell, Cherry Creek School District; Jennifer Ellerbroek, Cherry Creek School District	Creating a Culture of Student Well-Being and Belonging Leads to Student Success	How do you create, sustain, and grow a culture where student well-being—physical, emotional, and psychological—is central to success? In this session, we'll explore how one diverse school district is intentionally cultivating belonging and purpose among students, leading to stronger academic outcomes and more confident post-graduation pathways. The panel will share how this work took root in a post-COVID world and how students, families, staff, and community partners were engaged throughout the process. You'll gain practical insights into how existing staff and supports can be leveraged to drive meaningful change, and how your district can adapt this "how-to" model to your own.	Wednesday, July 23, 3:15 PM - 4:30 PM	Beaver Run Summit Gallery, Peaks 6-8
Leslie Nichols, Colorado Rural Schools Alliance; Denille LePlatt, Colorado Rural Schools Alliance; Rachel Lee, Colorado Rural Schools Alliance; Frank Reeves, Colorado Rural School Alliance; Dr. Luis Murillo, Alamosa School District; Philip Qualman, Eagle County School District	Cultivating Advocacy Leadership for Collective Change in Colorado Schools	Advocacy leadership is critical in creating meaningful, lasting, positive change for Colorado schools, and it takes all of us! In this interactive panel workshop, you will explore how advocacy leadership can create significant positive ripple effects across Colorado's educational landscape. Through real-world success stories, practical strategies, and collaborative exercises, you will discover that meaningful change often begins with one empowered individual taking that first step. This session will equip attendees with the mindset, tools, and confidence to advocate effectively while leading positive change in their local schools, regions, and across the state.	Wednesday, July 23, 3:15 PM - 4:30 PM	The Village Forest Room
Tracy Dorland, Jeffco Public Schools; Lisa Relou, Jeffco Public Schools; Kate Watkins, State Demography Office - Colorado Department of Local Affairs; Claire Takhar, Jeffco Public Schools	Facing the Baby Doom: Leveraging Demographics for District Success	Strong leadership isn't just about managing today—it's about anticipating the future. Enrollment is declining, reshaping school districts across Colorado. Faced with tough choices, leaders need to make bold, data-driven decisions. This session will spotlight how Jeffco Public Schools has leveraged the expertise of the Colorado State Demographer and the Colorado Futures Center. They have incorporated demographic analysis into strategic planning, engaged the school board in presentations, and developed a long-term roadmap to face declining enrollment. Attendees will gain insights into using demographic trends to navigate change, align resources, and drive forward-thinking district strategies. Whether your district is growing or shrinking, this session will equip you with the leadership mindset and strategies to shape the schools of tomorrow.	Wednesday, July 23, 3:15 PM - 4:30 PM	The Village Conifer



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BREAKOUT SESSIONS

PRESENTERS	SESSION TITLE	DESCRIPTION	DAY/TIME	VENUE/ROOM
Dr. Brian Hill, Mesa County Valley School District 51; Dr. Rob Anderson, Boulder Valley School District; Michael Giles Jr., Aurora Public Schools; Marsha Cody, Brush School District, Amber Elias, Colorado Education Initiative	From Policy to Practice: Lessons Learned from Implementing a Cell Phone Policy in Districts	With the passage of House Bill 25-1135, all Colorado school districts must implement a policy restricting cell phone use in schools by 2026. But what does successful implementation look like—and how do you get there? In this session, superintendents from across the state will share their experiences developing and enacting policies, offering lessons learned and practical strategies. Discussions will highlight how thoughtful implementation can support Whole School Wellness by fostering social-emotional learning, reducing distractions, and promoting mental health for students and staff. You will walk away with tools for stakeholder engagement, navigating challenges, and aligning policy with district values—whether starting from scratch or refining an existing approach.	Wednesday, July 23, 3:15 PM - 4:30 PM	Alpenrock Timberline
Karen Quanbeck, Colorado Education Initiative; Ruby Bode, Estes Park School District R-3; Adam Hartman, Cañon City Schools; Dr. Karen Cheser, Durango School District; Jen Marsh, Mesa County Valley School District 51	From Promise to Practice: Key Leadership Moves for Implementing AI	It's been a year of learning, as we have seen the power of AI in education! Join a dynamic panel of superintendents and district leaders who have been on the front lines of AI implementation in their districts. Over the past year, these leaders have faced challenges, found solutions, and made strategic moves to leverage the power of AI among educators and students. Hear firsthand how they created the conditions for success—fostering innovation while keeping students and educators at the center. Walk away with practical insights and leadership strategies you can take back to your own district, including how you, as a district leader, could use AI in your own professional practice.	Wednesday, July 23, 3:15 PM - 4:30 PM	Beaver Run Base Nine Lounge
Dr. Montina Romero, Fountain-Fort Carson School District 8; Lisa Zimprich, Fountain-Fort Carson School District 8; Youth Advisory Council Leadership Team, Fountain-Fort Carson School District 8	Honoring Youth Voice: Establishing a Youth Advisory Council	This session includes members of the District Youth Advisory Council (YAC), including youth and adults. The session will focus on how the YAC was established and how the YAC created a vision and culture that allowed youth to lead. Fountain-Fort Carson School District 8 received grant funds from the Colorado Department of Education Vaping Prevention Education Grant, which provided financial support to establish the YAC. Youth and adult YAC members will highlight the outcomes that resulted from the work from last year's YAC which centered on vaping prevention.	Wednesday, July 23, 3:15 PM - 4:30 PM	Beaver Run Coppertop
Maryellen Turner, Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment; Kati Garner, Colorado Department of Public Safety; Dr. Kevin Braney, Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment	How to Utilize State Partnerships to Support Your District Recovery Efforts After Crises and Disasters	Children of all ages, abilities, and developmental stages have unique functional needs in crises and disasters. Staff and teachers who have experienced a crisis or mass trauma situation may feel anxious or uncertain about how best to support their students during these complex events. The state of Colorado has developed a series of resources designed to help schools and districts as they manage recovery from crises and disasters. This interactive workshop will provide you with an overview of available resources throughout the state as well as suggested next steps for training staff members in evidence-informed behavioral health interventions.	Wednesday, July 23, 3:15 PM - 4:30 PM	The Village Blue Spruce
Simone Richardson, Garfield RE-2 School District; Kathi Senor, Garfield RE-2 School District; Betsy Rice, Garfield RE-2 School District; Aaron Hermiller, Garfield RE-2 School District	Leading from Within: How Academic Teacher Coaches Elevate Instruction and Empower Teams	Academic teacher coaches play a dual role—maintaining a model classroom while supporting their grade-level team to ensure high-quality instruction. Through co-planning, co-teaching, and providing feedback, teacher coaches guide their grade-level team in implementing best practices aligned with district initiatives. They assist their team in understanding the curriculum, using data to drive instruction, and developing differentiated lessons that meet student needs. These unique academic coaches provide ongoing resources, technical support, and classroom management strategies, all while reinforcing the district's mission, vision, and core values. As active members of the School Support Team, they collaborate monthly with the Director of Curriculum and other building coaches, ensuring a cohesive approach to student success. Join us to learn how this model drives excellence!	Wednesday, July 23, 3:15 PM - 4:30 PM	Alpenrock Sterling
Bridget Cahill, Westminster Public Schools	Maximizing Impact: Creating an Effective Coaching Model Amid Resource Limitations	In this session, discover how to create a powerful coaching model that thrives even when resources are tight. Learn to strategically align available support, streamline processes, and leverage creative solutions to empower educators and drive sustainable change. Through real-world examples and practical strategies, you'll explore methods to build a resilient and high-impact coaching program that overcomes challenges and maximizes every opportunity for success.	Wednesday, July 23, 3:15 PM - 4:30 PM	The Village Aspen
Aaron Henderson, Douglas County School District; Danny Winsor, Douglas County School District; Madison Bowers, Douglas County School District; Michelle Murphy, Douglas County School District	Navigating the Title IX Landscape	Join the Douglas County Equal Opportunity team for an interactive discussion of strategies and practices around receiving and responding to complaints of sexual harassment, including engaging staff, processing reports, filling key roles, and data reporting. This team of experts will use scenarios based on actual cases to unpack the information in a manner designed to be useful for administrators from both rural and urban schools and districts.	Wednesday, July 23, 3:15 PM - 4:30 PM	Alpenrock Northstar



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PRESENTERS	SESSION TITLE	DESCRIPTION	DAY/TIME	VENUE/ROOM
Dr. Cori Canty, Denver Public Schools; Jennifer Nelson, Denver Public Schools; Julie Cruz, Denver Public Schools; Johann Liljengren, CDE	Shifting Attendance Paradigms: Adaptable & Evidence-Based Approaches	This interactive workshop will include a balance of information sharing and planning in order to support school and district development of adaptive attendance approaches. Based on lived experiences, school and district leaders will share proven practices in implementing effective and adaptive attendance systems. This attendance approach has been shown to be flexible and adaptable during the times when student attendance has been impacted due to societal concerns. You will be guided through a system development approach to develop and/or refine components of comprehensive attendance approaches using evidence and research-based practices, especially newer, post-COVID research, that aligns with school, district, state and national efforts.	Wednesday, July 23, 3:15 PM - 4:30 PM	Beaver Run Beaver Den
Colleen Miller, McGraw Hill	The Power of a Student-Centered, Multi-Language Learner Classroom	This interactive workshop session guides participants through the various levels of instructional support, strategies, and resources specifically designed for multilingual learners. From general best practices that can be infused into any content area, supporting and scaffolding, and more strategic and intensive Multi-Language Learner (MLL) instruction, including writing and specific newcomer-focused needs, this session will provide you with background and immediate instructional guidance to help your MLLs succeed, and experience agency and voice in their learning.	Wednesday, July 23, 3:15 PM - 4:30 PM	Beaver Run Summit Gallery, Peak 12
Paul Foster, CDE; Kerry Whitmore, CDE; Nick Smosna, CDE	Understanding Abbreviated School Day Requirements Under House Bill 24-1063	This session will cover the requirements for abbreviated school day schedules under House Bill 24-1063, including discipline, attendance, parental consent, and IEP/504 team decisions. Administrative Units must adopt policies by July 1, 2025, to align with CDE's model, ensuring protections for students with disabilities. Disciplinary removals must be accurately tracked, and attendance policies must prevent improper truancy classifications. Students must have equal access to extracurricular activities, and compliance will be monitored by CDE. There are many moving parts, and this session will aim to unpack them in a way that makes implementation more streamlined.	Wednesday, July 23, 3:15 PM - 4:30 PM	Beaver Run Imperial Ballroom
Anne Warren, Fountain-Fort Carson School District 8; Clint Allison, Fountain-Fort Carson School District 8	Unlocking Energy and Understanding Behavior: Tools for Building Stronger School Teams	Do you have teachers who naturally take on the role of peacemaker? Or perhaps you've noticed a staff member who's highly focused on results, but struggles to connect with colleagues? What about teams that seem perpetually at odds, despite shared goals? As a school leader, understanding why individuals behave in a certain way is crucial for building a cohesive school culture. When leaders recognize how people gain energy—whether through problem-solving, relationship-building, or achieving results—they can foster positive interactions and improve teamwork. Join us for a breakout session to learn practical tools for enhancing communication, aligning team strengths with goals, and creating a culture where staff feel valued and motivated, ultimately supporting success of staff for students and families.	Wednesday, July 23, 3:15 PM - 4:30 PM	Beaver Run Summit Gallery, Peaks 9&10
Lisa Medler, CDE; Aislinn Wales, CDE; Christina Wirth-Hawkins, CDE; Danielle Ongart, CDE	Updates on State Accountability	Building upon the 1241 Task Force's recommendations, the passage of the new accountability bill (House Bill 25-1278) sets many activities into motion at the state, district and school levels. Come join us for an update on what is next for accountability—and what is not. This includes a focus on the performance frameworks, state assessments, public reporting, accountability clock, continuous improvement and supports, and areas for further study. We will build in time for discussion and implications for local practice.	Wednesday, July 23, 3:15 PM - 4:30 PM	The Village Tarn
Monica Johnson, CASE; Dr. Glenn McClain, CASE	2025-2026 CASE Mentor Program Information Session	Are you a new educational leader looking for guidance or an experienced leader looking to give back? This session will introduce you to the CASE Mentorship Program and walk you through everything you need to know to get involved as a mentor or mentee. What will be covered? 1. The CASE programs available for new educational leaders 2. A sample calendar of events 3. How to register for the Mentorship Program 4. How mentees and mentors are matched 5. Expectations of participants, including time commitment 6. Benefits for participants and organizations Whether you're looking to grow or help others, the Mentorship Program is a valuable opportunity to make meaningful professional connections and deepen your impact in Colorado education.	Thursday, July 24, 10:30 AM - 11:45 AM	Beaver Run Summit Gallery, Peak 12
Brett Johnson, Aurora Public Schools	Changes to K-12 Funding and a Look at What's Next	Join us for a conversation about the legislative changes and policy issues impacting Colorado public education funding, including: school finance changes made during the 2025 session, recent property tax revenue caps approved during the 2024 special session, and potential 2026 ballot initiatives. School funding has been a strong focus for legislators the last few years, and is always a top priority for CASE. We want to ensure you have the latest information and understand the implications moving forward.	Thursday, July 24, 10:30 AM - 11:45 AM	The Village Blue Spruce



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BREAKOUT SESSIONS

PRESENTERS	SESSION TITLE	DESCRIPTION	DAY/TIME	VENUE/ROOM
Dr. Luis Murillo, Alamosa School District; Dr. Diana Jones, Alamosa School District; Michelle Wilson, Alamosa School District	Every Day Matters: Strategies for Sustainable Attendance Improvement	Alamosa School District's "Every Day Matters" campaign offers a blueprint for combating truancy and fostering lasting attendance improvements. This session delves into the district's multifaceted approach, showcasing how early intervention systems seamlessly connect with truancy court processes. Learn how we prioritize robust family and community engagement, building vital partnerships to support student success. Discover the crucial role of Multi-Tiered Systems of Support (MTSS) in our schools, providing tailored interventions for at-risk students. Gain practical strategies to cultivate a school-wide culture of attendance, empower families, and ensure every student understands the significance of daily presence. You'll leave with actionable insights to implement similar strategies in your district, driving positive outcomes and building a brighter future for all students.	Thursday, July 24, 10:30 AM - 11:45 AM	Alpenrock Timberline
Kate Slick, St. Vrain Valley Schools	From Hire to Retire: Maximizing Employee Success at Every Stage	Understanding and supporting employees throughout their lifecycle is key to building a thriving school district workforce. This session will explore each phase of the employee journey—from recruitment and onboarding to development, retention, and offboarding—providing practical strategies and considerations for school leaders. Come gain insights into essential supports at each stage, learn how to proactively address challenges, and take away actionable ideas tailored for building principals and department managers. Whether you're looking to refine your hiring process, boost staff engagement, or create a strong exit strategy, this session will equip you with the tools to foster a motivated and high-performing team.	Thursday, July 24, 10:30 AM - 11:45 AM	Beaver Run Beaver Den
Dr. Brian Hill, Mesa County Valley School District 51; Jennifer Marsh, Mesa County Valley School District 51; Tracy Gallegos, Mesa County Valley School District 51; Dr. Alex Carter, Colorado Education Initiative	From Plan to IMPACT: How D51 Drives District Success through Strategic Implementation	A strategic plan is only as powerful as its execution. School District 51 (D51) has built a reliable, systematic approach to turning vision into reality. In this session, explore how D51 has successfully implemented its 2022–2025 strategic priorities, ensuring alignment, accountability, and impact. Learn how they've engaged stakeholders, built internal capacity, and navigated challenges to drive meaningful change. Through real-world examples and actionable insights, participants will gain strategies to move beyond planning and into sustainable implementation. Whether your district is launching a new strategic plan or refining an existing one, this session will provide practical takeaways to ensure your priorities translate into measurable success.	Thursday, July 24, 10:30 AM - 11:45 AM	The Village Aspen
Dr. Karen Cheser, Durango School District; Dr. Dylan Connell, Durango School District; Dr. Laurie Rossback, Durango School District	Harnessing the Power of the Honey Badgers: Building Student Agency and Impact	The Alpha Generation, our current students, have been described as the Honey Badgers, after the viral video and meme from the 2010s. They are determined, fiercely confident, and driven to make an impact on our world. They also have had access to technology from the time they were born. The Durango School District is committed to engaging these students in meaningful experiences and real-world impact. Learn how we are integrating project-based learning, sustainability education, global connections, makerspaces and robotics, AI, and a focus on career innovation to help our Honey Badgers use their power for success now and in the future, while increasing proficiency. Hear what our students told us through a Changemaker Hub, which is informing our new strategic plan.	Thursday, July 24, 10:30 AM - 11:45 AM	Alpenrock Northstar
Dr. Peter Stiepleman, Yondr; Brian Damman, Yondr; Marisa Vasquez, Aurora Public Schools; Marcella Garcia, Aurora Public Schools; Katie Law, Aurora Public Schools	Healthy Tech Habits: Fostering Engagement and Belonging in a Phone-Free School	Join Dr. Peter Stiepleman, former superintendent and host of <i>An Imperfect Leader: The Superintendents and Leadership Podcast</i> , and school leaders from Yondr partner schools in Colorado, for an engaging discussion on leading with impact and fostering belonging through phone-free school initiatives. This session explores how reducing phone distractions supports academic achievement, promotes belonging, and encourages healthy tech habits. Learn about an MTSS Tier 1 strategy that addresses phone-related challenges while boosting focus and reducing behavior issues. Dr. Stiepleman will moderate the conversation, and Yondr's Colorado partners will highlight insights into the experiences and successes in implementing a phone-free policy, followed by an interactive Q&A.	Thursday, July 24, 10:30 AM - 11:45 AM	Beaver Run Coppertop
Axel Reitzig, St. Vrain Valley Schools; Kristen Brohm, St. Vrain Valley Schools	Innovation by Design: A Hands-On Workshop for Designing and Implementing Breakthrough K-12 Programs	What can innovation look like in K-12 education—and how do you make it happen? In this hands-on breakout session, we'll explore what innovation means, how it works in practice, and why it's essential for the future of learning. Through dynamic discussion, collaborative design activities, and real-world examples from the St. Vrain Valley School District's Innovation Center, you'll gain insight into how dynamic, student-centered programming can take shape in your own district. You'll leave with tools, inspiration, and a co-created prototype for innovative programming that you can implement right away. Join other forward-thinking leaders and discover how design thinking, creativity, and strategic action can transform what's possible in education.	Thursday, July 24, 10:30 AM - 11:45 AM	Beaver Run Imperial Ballroom
Dan Morris, Colorado Digital Learning Solutions; Dr. Ken Haptonstall, Colorado River BOCES; Dr. Kirk Henwood, South Routt RE-3; Robert McMullen, Limon School District RE-4J; Mike Schmidt, Platte Canyon Schools RE-1	Join the Conversation: Expanding Student Access to CTE Pathway Courses	Join us for a dynamic discussion on expanding student access to CTE pathway courses and electives! Learn from more than 100 rural districts and BOCES that have successfully integrated state-supported online supplemental programs to enhance opportunities for students. This is your chance to share your experiences, challenges, and strategies while gaining insights from district leaders and school board members who have implemented innovative solutions. Let's collaborate to build sustainable educational pathways for all students!	Thursday, July 24, 10:30 AM - 11:45 AM	Beaver Run Base Nine Lounge



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PRESENTERS	SESSION TITLE	DESCRIPTION	DAY/TIME	VENUE/ROOM
Dr. Chad Krug, Lamar RE-2; Kenny Davis, Lamar RE-2; Mathew Biszak, Lamar RE-2	Milestones: Strengthening School-Family Partnerships for Student Growth	Discover how “Milestones: Resources for Parents” (Milestones) is transforming school-family partnerships by providing parents with the tools they need to support their child’s development. This session will explore how Lamar RE-2 designed Milestones to align with staff professional development, creating a seamless bridge between home and school. Learn practical strategies to implement a similar initiative in your district, strengthen family engagement, and enhance student success. You will leave with actionable ideas, sample resources, and insights into fostering collaboration between educators and families. Whether you’re looking to improve communication with parents or develop meaningful, research-based support systems, this session will equip you with the framework to make it happen. Join us to take your school-home connection to the next level!	Thursday, July 24, 10:30 AM - 11:45 AM	Beaver Run Summit Gallery, Peaks 9&10
Eric Owen, Hayden School District RE-1; Kalee Voegtler, Hayden School District RE-1; Lanc Sellden, Hayden School District RE-1	Navigating Hiring Needs in a Rural District Through the J-1 Visa	In response to persistent staffing shortages, our small, rural school district in north-west Colorado implemented an innovative approach by hiring five international teachers through the J-1 visa program. These educators, placed across our elementary, middle, and high schools, bring valuable global perspectives and high-quality instruction to our students. This presentation will highlight the recruitment process, integration strategies, and the positive impact on student learning and school culture. It will also share challenges (both planned and unforeseen) that the district, buildings, and candidates face throughout this first year. You will gain practical insight into how international teacher candidates can help rural districts meet staffing needs while enriching educational experiences for all learners.	Thursday, July 24, 10:30 AM - 11:45 AM	Alpenrock Gilden
Kelly Sain, Thompson School District; Anne Dewey, Thompson School District; Theo Robison, Thompson School District	People First, Powered by AI: Shaping the Future of Learning Together in Thompson School District	As artificial intelligence becomes increasingly integrated into K-12 education, district leaders face the critical task of guiding thoughtful and strategic implementation. This session will explore our district’s comprehensive journey to develop an AI framework that advances teaching and learning—while prioritizing equity, innovation, and the responsible use of digital tools and data. We’ll share our process from initial vision to implementation, including how we: engaged diverse stakeholders to build shared understanding and support, developed targeted professional development to build capacity, and evaluated and adopted secure AI tools aligned with instructional priorities. In this session, you’ll gain practical insights, key challenges and solutions, lessons learned, and actionable strategies to support sustainable, future-ready AI initiatives for your district.	Thursday, July 24, 10:30 AM - 11:45 AM	Alpenrock Slopeside & Windfall
Tracie Rainey, Colorado School Finance Project; Justin Silverstein, Colorado School Finance Project	School Finance: Another Year of Change	Colorado’s school finance landscape has shifted dramatically in recent years, with partial implementation of a new funding formula, changes in tax policy impacting local share, and evolving state-level decisions about K-12 investment. On top of that, federal actions on the horizon may further influence how districts plan and operate. This session offers an in-depth look at what’s changed, what’s coming, and how those changes affect different types of districts across the state. We’ll explore key trends, implications for your budget, and how to proactively plan for long-term sustainability in a rapidly changing fiscal environment.	Thursday, July 24, 10:30 AM - 11:45 AM	The Village Conifer
Theresa Myers, Greeley-Evans School District 6; Dr. Deirdre Pilch, Greeley-Evans School District 6; Steve Dobo, Zero Dropouts	Schools Can’t Do It Alone: Creating Successful Partnerships and Community Goodwill	In this interactive session, discover how Greeley-Evans School District 6 has engaged its community, including businesses, non-profit organizations, governmental entities, and faith-based organizations, to create a strong web of advocacy and support for public schools. Topics will include soliciting the support of our local Chamber of Commerce and businesses, partnership with educational organizations and other groups that support our district mission, creating and maintaining relationships with policymakers across all levels, and sustaining community support through communications. You’ll walk away with practical ideas and proven strategies to strengthen your district’s connections and impact through authentic, mutually beneficial partnerships.	Thursday, July 24, 10:30 AM - 11:45 AM	The Village Elevation
Kelle Bongard, Strasburg 31J; Nancy Taylor, Strasburg 31J	Strategic Budgeting for Success: Aligning Resources with Your District’s Vision	Join us for an engaging breakout session tailored for superintendents, CFOs, and business managers navigating the intricate world of budgeting. This session focuses on the power of strategic budgeting, using your district’s strategic plan as a compass for financial decision-making. Discover how a rural school district transformed its budgeting process by prioritizing strategic drivers, tracking expenditures meticulously, and fostering a culture of accountability. You’ll leave equipped with actionable tips, innovative ideas, and real-world testimonials that highlight the journey from planning to successful implementation. Ensure your district’s financial resources align with your vision and achieve sustained success year after year!	Thursday, July 24, 10:30 AM - 11:45 AM	The Village Tarn
Dr. Jamita Horton, Teach Plus Colorado; Laura Vance, Harrison School District 2; Dustin Bailey, Boulder Valley School District	Supporting Multi-Language Learners in a Time of Need	As teacher leaders from TeachPlus, we have spent ample time researching and interviewing districts on best practices for Multi-Language Learners (MLLs), including classroom strategies and community engagement. This session will be our opportunity to learn from other district leaders regarding best practices and scaffolds for MLLs, and to explore the evidence we have found through our research to support MLLs. Join us to gain new ideas and insights from one another, and to workshop strategies that will positively impact students.	Thursday, July 24, 10:30 AM - 11:45 AM	Beaver Run Summit Gallery Peak 11



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PRESENTERS	SESSION TITLE	DESCRIPTION	DAY/TIME	VENUE/ROOM
Dr. Bonnie Martin, Denver Public Schools; Jessica Rodriguez Bracey, Denver Public Schools; Calarri Cox, Denver Public Schools	Transforming the 9th-Grade Experience: Innovative Systems and Programming at the High School Level	Join us as we showcase Northfield High School's groundbreaking approach to student success. Our innovative systems create a seamless transition from middle to high school through mentorship programs, full-time advisory teachers, and a year-long curriculum designed to support freshmen. Learn how core teacher cohorting and our gold and navy house system—each with dedicated counselors, deans, and student support liaisons—build strong relationships. We'll highlight our advisory model, freshman math lab, and our for-credit advisory and Spanish-speaking peer tutoring programs. Discover how targeted programming for anxiety and stress, and weekly house team "Kid-Talk" meetings ensure every student receives the emotional and academic support they need. Walk away with strategies to create a culture of support, belonging, and achievement.	Thursday, July 24, 10:30 AM - 11:45 AM	Beaver Run Summit Gallery, Peaks 6-8
David Jarboe, Harrison School District 2; Joe McBreen, St. Vrain Valley Schools; Greg Miller, Cheyenne Mountain School District 12	Use of Facial Recognition in K-12 Schools	Senate Bill 25-143 addresses the use of facial recognition services by schools in Colorado. It aimed to regulate and limit the application of this technology, while ensuring safety and educational benefits. Join us for a presentation and Q&A on what your district will need in place to use facial recognition technology under the new provisions of law ushered in by this legislation. We will discuss five main areas addressed in the new language and how this would look for your curriculum-based facial recognition tools, like robots, and your security systems that have facial recognition technology.	Thursday, July 24, 10:30 AM - 11:45 AM	Alpenrock Sterling
Jack Kronser, Douglas County School District; Heather Grantham, CDE; Tanya Klein, CDE	Utilizing All 14 CDE Authorizations to Maximize Hiring of Qualified Non-Licensed Teachers	Recruiting and hiring qualified classroom teachers is an ongoing challenge for Colorado schools and administrators. While we all strive to hire qualified, licensed teachers, there are times when that is not possible. What other options are available to staff classrooms with qualified teachers? There are 14 authorizations available to schools that can be utilized to hire qualified subject experts as teachers. Understanding the different aspects of each authorization may allow a school or district to staff some of those difficult-to-fill positions. This session will provide a district and CDE perspective on utilizing authorizations.	Thursday, July 24, 10:30 AM - 11:45 AM	The Village Forest Room
Dr. Cicely Bailey, Adams County School District 14; Dr. Karla Loria, Adams County School District 14; Dr. Katy Roede, Adams County School District 14; Jamahl Peake, Adams County School District 14	A Successful Turnaround Requires Directly Confronting the Truth	Whether you're leading a team, managing a project, or steering an entire organization, confronting reality is the essential first step toward meaningful and lasting change. In this session, we'll explore how embracing uncomfortable truths—rather than avoiding them—can drive resilience, innovation, and sustained success. Before we discuss strategies, it's essential to understand why confronting the truth is so important. We all tend to avoid hard facts, either out of fear or discomfort, or simply because they challenge our worldview. However, success does not come from sweeping problems under the rug in leadership and organizational management. It's the direct confrontation of these issues that allows us to turn them around. Join us as we unpack practical strategies for addressing tough realities and creating a culture where honesty fuels growth.	Thursday, July 24, 1:30 PM - 2:45 PM	Alpenrock Gilden
Beth Friel, Caplan and Earnest	Building a Better Road - Colorado Decision Review	Every year, Colorado's Department of Education, the Office of Administrative Courts, and Colorado's Federal Courts release decisions that determine the outcomes of disputes involving students with disabilities. As the administrative and judicial systems analyze these disputes, what evidence are they relying upon? What signals are they sending to parties in their holdings and dicta? Learn from these decisions to inform your efforts to plan well for students, resolve disputes productively, and present a case convincingly to decision makers.	Thursday, July 24, 1:30 PM - 2:45 PM	Alpenrock Northstar
Alex Nikiforoff, Department of Military and Veterans Affairs	Creation and Expansion of Youth Military Auxiliary Programs	Governor Polis has set a goal of increasing participation in Youth Military Auxiliary (YMA) programs, such as JROTC, Civil Air Patrol, and Young Marines, by 15% by July 2027. This session will highlight how these programs foster leadership, discipline, and academic achievement without requiring any military service commitment. Core components of all YMA programs include elements like STEM-focused curriculum, leadership development, personal accountability, and a focus on community service and civic engagement. Research indicates that when students participate in these programs, they benefit in powerful ways related to higher graduation rates, improved career and college readiness, and a greater sense of belonging and self-confidence. But don't just take our word for it! Join us at this session to learn how your school or district can implement or expand a YMA program that empowers students and strengthens communities.	Thursday, July 24, 1:30 PM - 2:45 PM	Beaver Run Summit Gallery, Peak 12
Dr. Ryan McCoy, Westminster Public Schools; Dr. Chris McGilvray, Front Range Community College	Designed for Industry, Powered by Partnership: A Multigenerational, Regional Campus Aligning High School and College	How can one campus serve middle schoolers, high schoolers, college students, and adult learners—and prepare them for tomorrow's workforce? Discover how Westminster Public Schools and Front Range Community College joined forces to launch the Iver C. Ranum Innovation Campus, a multigenerational hub designed to meet regional industry needs. This session spotlights the Advanced Manufacturing pathway, where students earn stackable credentials, engage in concurrent enrollment, and access off-ramps to employment or on-ramps to a degree. Learn how shared resources, strategic alignment, and cross-sector collaboration are transforming the education-to-career pipeline. Whether you're rethinking facilities, partnerships, or programs, this story of bold vision and community transformation will inspire your next steps.	Thursday, July 24, 1:30 PM - 2:45 PM	Beaver Run Summit Gallery, Peaks 9&10



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BREAKOUT SESSIONS

PRESENTERS	SESSION TITLE	DESCRIPTION	DAY/TIME	VENUE/ROOM
Dr. Alex Carter, Colorado Education Initiative; Adam Hartman, Cañon City Schools; Jamie Davis, Cañon City Schools; Dr. Luis Murillo, Alamosa School District; Dr. Diana Jones, Alamosa School District	Designing Homegrown Leadership Systems: Building Your District's Leadership Bench	Strong school and district leadership is essential for system success—and districts must cultivate future leaders from within. This session explores how two districts have built successful “homegrown leadership” programs to strengthen their leadership pipelines and develop current and future leaders. Learn about two distinct, locally created models, including their structures, recruitment strategies, and leadership curriculum. Gain practical insights into designing no-cost/low-cost sustainable leadership development initiatives tailored to your district’s needs. Whether launching a new program or refining an existing one, this session will provide inspiration and tools to grow strong leaders from within.	Thursday, July 24, 1:30 PM - 2:45 PM	The Village Forest Room
Colleen Doan, Douglas County School District; Natasha Straayer, Douglas County School District; Sarah Cannon, Douglas County School District	Don't Leave Money on the Table: Strategic Departmental Collaboration - The Secret Sauce to Success!	We believe our secret to success is in the collaboration between our budget office and department heads. In this session, we will explore how to develop a partnership between business office leaders and academic leaders who aim to focus on student success and student needs first. We will discuss our collaborative structures to support equitable distribution of resources through the lens of state, district, federal title, and other grant funding. Conversation will also include the criticality and benefits of collaboration across district programming and finance departments, creative problem solving when state and district budgetary restrictions are significant, and celebrations resulting from collaborative practices across teams.	Thursday, July 24, 1:30 PM - 2:45 PM	The Village Aspen
Tara Thomas, AASA (The School Superintendents Association)	Federal Legislative Update and What it Means for School Districts	With so much turbulence at the federal level related to policy and funding changes, we want to ensure that school districts are in the know about how they stand to be impacted. Join us for an update about the latest federal legislative developments with a particular focus on what districts should be thinking about and planning for. We encourage you to bring any questions you might have to this timely learning session.	Thursday, July 24, 1:30 PM - 2:45 PM	The Village Elevation Room
Dr. Traci Gile, Poudre School District; Kate Canine, Poudre School District; Dr. Julie Chaplain, Poudre School District; Dr. Insoon Olson, Poudre School District	Focused Collaboration Networks: Disrupting Disproportionality through Principal Learning	Solving a complex problem such as disproportionality and closing gaps for historically underserved populations requires tending deeply to the instructional core as well as the systems and structures that surround the core. Poudre School District designed purposeful professional learning networks for administrators to leverage their genius within small collaborative groups to work toward changing outcomes for students who need us most. Learn about how we designed and implemented this approach for admin professional learning that is changing outcomes for kids, as well as helping administrators feel more connected to colleagues and less isolated in how they solve the most complex problems facing them professionally.	Thursday, July 24, 1:30 PM - 2:45 PM	The Village Tarn
Christine Andersen, Douglas County School District; Candice Laviaguerre, Douglas County School District	From Burnout to Breakthrough: Leadership Moves to Energize Veteran Teachers	Veteran teachers bring invaluable expertise, but how can leaders inspire growth without adding to burnout? This session explores how to lead with love, compassion, empathy, and perspective, rather than fear, mandates, or top-down decisions, to reenergize experienced educators. Learn how to foster a culture of continuous learning through relationship-driven coaching, instructional spotlights, and peer-driven challenges with meaningful incentives. Discover strategies for differentiated coaching cycles, collaborative PLCs, and engaging professional learning that honors experience while sparking innovation. Walk away with actionable tools to create a school culture where every teacher feels valued, inspired, and eager to grow. Leadership isn't about control—it's about trust, empowerment, and ensuring veteran teachers remain passionate, engaged, and excited for what's next.	Thursday, July 24, 1:30 PM - 2:45 PM	Beaver Run Imperial Ballroom
Dr. Ross Morgan, Summit School District; Lynne Humphrey, Summit School District; Julia Polise, Summit School District; Kimberly Sullivan, Summit School District	From Decline to Drive: How One Middle School Reimagined Math Instruction for Real Results	Throughout last year, Summit Middle School launched an ambitious initiative to reverse a troubling trend: declining math scores. Through scheduling changes, time for math team leads to collaborate, and a focus on redesigning lessons and assessments to better align to standards, our school began to turn the tide. We've witnessed early, exciting gains in student mastery of grade-level math! This session will highlight the strategies that sparked our transformation around sharpening instructional alignment. We'll celebrate key milestones, share helpful tools, and offer a look ahead at how we plan to maintain this momentum. Whether you're leading from a school or the central office, you'll leave with practical takeaways and a renewed belief in what's possible when a team rallies together.	Thursday, July 24, 1:30 PM - 2:45 PM	Beaver Run Summit Gallery Peak 11
Dr. Nicole Paxton, Harrison School District 2; Dr. Angela Valdez, Harrison School District 2; Aaron Vandewarker, Harrison School District 2	Integrating Restorative Practices, Student Leadership, and Data-Driven Counseling for Social-Emotional and Academic Success	In today's dynamic educational landscape, creating a school environment that nurtures both the social-emotional well-being and academic success of students is paramount. This session will explore how schools can integrate restorative practices, foster student leadership, and utilize data-driven counseling to build a holistic environment that supports all students in their personal and academic growth. By blending evidence-based strategies with student-centered approaches, we aim to provide attendees with actionable insights and practical tools to implement in their own schools. This session will highlight real-world examples of how schools have used these practices to create inclusive, supportive environments where students thrive.	Thursday, July 24, 1:30 PM - 2:45 PM	Beaver Run Summit Gallery, Peaks 6-8



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BREAKOUT SESSIONS

PRESENTERS	SESSION TITLE	DESCRIPTION	DAY/TIME	VENUE/ROOM
Dusty Burton, Aurora Public Schools	Micro Learning, Macro Impact	Discover how microlearning can revolutionize your professional development, offering bite-sized, impactful learning experiences that fit into your busy schedule! Want to boost knowledge retention and engagement? Join us to explore the research-backed strategies of microlearning that are proven to increase learning by up to 80%. Learn how to create cost-effective and time-efficient training that your staff will love and easily engage in. Learn how to empower your team with “just-in-time” learning that’s accessible on their phones and immediately applicable, making professional growth more convenient and effective than ever. From increased user engagement to significant time savings, this session will show you how microlearning delivers macro impact.	Thursday, July 24, 1:30 PM - 2:45 PM	Beaver Run Beaver Den
Dr. Bree Jones, La Veta School District; Dr. Julie Oxenford-O'Brian, University of Colorado-Denver; Lisa Yates, Buena Vista School District	Rural Renaissance: How S-CAP Districts Are Reimagining Accountability Through Partnership & Collaboration	Join leaders of the Student-Centered Accountability Program (S-CAP) who are igniting a rural renaissance through innovative approaches to education. This session highlights the transformative partnership between 25 rural Colorado districts and the University of Colorado Denver, where participants honor local wisdom while learning with and from one another. Discover how context-responsive leadership engages local stakeholders through structured feedback loops, including surveys and focus groups that are used to inform decision-making focused on continuous improvement. Colorado superintendents will share concrete strategies for strategic resource allocation that improve student outcomes and strengthen the workforce. Learn how these collaborative approaches build resilient educational systems while cultivating the next generation of rural leaders who see their communities as unique landscapes of opportunity and innovation.	Thursday, July 24, 1:30 PM - 2:45 PM	The Village Conifer
Jeff Pierson, Jeffco Public Schools; Madalena DeAndrea, Jeffco Public Schools; Sumer Schantz, Jeffco Public Schools	Streamlining Your Threat Management Process and Safety Plans, While Balancing Psychological vs. Physical Safety	This session will provide you with strategies, ideas, and how to use the threat management process to implement and support students through safety plans, along with guidance about what team members and resources should be included in that work. In addition, we will provide ideas and strategies that support the psychological safety challenges that students face daily, plus look at the physical safety expectations our communities deserve. We will include at least one tabletop scenario to put these strategies and tools to work.	Thursday, July 24, 1:30 PM - 2:45 PM	Alpenrock Sterling
Kristan Gundel, CDE; MK Sagaria Barritt, Career-Wise Colorado; Christina Randle, Harrison School District 2; Liz Qualman, Colorado Mountain College	Teacher Degree Apprenticeships: Unlocking New Pathways to Teacher Licensure	In March 2025, Colorado launched its first-ever Registered Teacher Degree Apprenticeship Program. This innovative program offers an alternative pathway to teacher licensure, combining practical, on-the-job learning with the opportunity to “earn while you learn.” Designed to address teacher recruitment and retention through investing in the workforce talent that exists in your community, the apprenticeship model provides a promising solution to meet the growing demand for qualified teachers. In this session, participants will explore the Teacher Degree Apprenticeship pathway, gaining insights from the program sponsor and employers about the implementation process, early outcomes, and the program’s potential impact. This session will help you evaluate if the Teacher Degree Apprenticeship approach is the right fit for your community’s educational needs.	Thursday, July 24, 1:30 PM - 2:45 PM	Beaver Run Coppertop
James Miles, NYEdTech Meetup; Mike Kleba, NYEdTech Meetup	WORKSHOP: The U.S. Is Made Up of All of Us: Having Conversations with People that Disagree With Us	In a world fractured by political divides, it’s hard not to offend or be offended. Conservative teachers and leaders often face opposition and judgment for defending traditional values. Progressive educators and leaders are often on the frontlines of defending inclusivity, compassion, and justice. Seems like almost everyone is either mad or done with it. What’s the way out of this? We need better ways to talk and listen to each other. Join nationally-celebrated James Miles and Mike Kleba, known for authentic, inspiring, and practical workshops, in a hands-on session that provides strategies to confidently engage in conversations with those who challenge your worldview. Strengthen your ability to listen effectively, ask better questions, and lead with conviction to create unity and understanding without compromising your values. Stop waiting for the politics to blow over. Impactful teachers and leaders have to engage!	Thursday, July 24, 1:30 PM - 3:15 PM	Alpenrock Slopeside & Windfall
Michelle Romero, CDE; Danielle Ongart, CDE	Updates to Postsecondary & Workforce Readiness at CDE	There are significant changes coming to postsecondary and workforce readiness options to increase access to career pathways for all students in Colorado. Learn about several policy and funding updates from the Colorado Department of Education (CDE) on what we’re calling “The Big Three” outcomes (college credit, industry-recognized credentials, and quality work-based learning), which also includes accountability changes to the PWR sub-indicator on the performance framework.	Thursday, July 24, 1:30 PM - 2:45 PM	Beaver Run Base Nine Lounge
Tim Miles, Steamboat Springs School District; Jerry Yarborough, Extreme Networks; Scott Singer, Extreme Networks; Cory Souders, Molex	You Have Been Exposed! Come Learn Fabric and PoE Lighting with Steamboat Springs	Explore how the Steamboat Springs School District is leading Colorado in innovative infrastructure with two cutting-edge solutions: 1) PoE Lighting: Discover how delivering power and intelligence to lighting via a single computer cable can eliminate the need for electrical rooms, extensive conduit, and traditional wiring. Learn from Steamboat’s firsthand experience using this technology in both a new build and a renovation—the first of its kind in Colorado. 2) Extreme Networks Fabric: Get hands-on with “Bob,” a live, interactive data closet, and compare traditional network switching with Fabric. See how this IEEE standard simplifies configuration, enhances security, and supports plug-and-play integration with fabric-aware devices. Steamboat has already made the leap — come see why it might be your turn next!	Thursday, July 24, 1:30 PM - 2:45 PM	Alpenrock Timberline



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PRESENTERS	SESSION TITLE	DESCRIPTION	DAY/TIME	VENUE/ROOM
Dr. Krista Keogh, Cherry Creek School District; Ryan Silva, Cherry Creek School District; Jessica Robinson, Cherry Creek School District; Marcus McDavid, Cherry Creek School District	Aligning for Impact: Streamlining School Goals from UIP to Classroom	In this presentation, the team from Cherry Creek High School will share how large comprehensive high schools can create a cohesive goal structure that connects Colorado's Unified Improvement Plan (UIP) requirements to meaningful work at every level. Being in only year one of a two-year cycle, we will share the practical strategies we used for aligning department initiatives, PLCs, and individual teacher evaluations into one streamlined framework. Together we'll explore how intentional leadership, and targeted professional learning can empower all staff members, regardless of role or content area, to understand and contribute to school-wide improvement efforts.	Friday, July 25, 8:30 AM - 9:45 AM	Beaver Run Summit Gallery, Peaks 9 & 10
Paige Jennings, Weld RE-4 School District; Katie Wilson, Weld RE-4 School District	Beyond Rote Memory: The Hidden Link Between Background Knowledge and Critical Thinking	We often treat critical thinking as a standalone skill, but cognitive science tells us it's anything but. In this session, we'll explore research from the science of learning to uncover why deep thinking depends on a strong foundation of factual knowledge. Learn how background knowledge lightens the load on working memory, fuels reasoning, and strengthens problem-solving. You'll leave with research-based insights and practical strategies to help students build the content knowledge they need to think critically, across all subjects and grade levels.	Friday, July 25, 8:30 AM - 9:45 AM	Beaver Run Imperial Ballroom
Deanna Padilione, Cañon City Schools; Patty Quinones, Colorado Education Initiative; Elisha Roberts, Colorado Education Initiative	Cañon City School District Partnership with CEI: AI Implementation That Provides Results	Cañon City School District, in partnership with Colorado Education Initiative, is leading the way in translating the promise of AI into real instructional impact. Through the Colorado Opportunity Grant: ElevateAI, our district has focused on the implementation of AI in ways that enhance teaching and learning, rather than replacing it. This session highlights the development of a K-12 progression tool, aligned with computer science standards, including expectations and outcomes. We will dive into case studies that demonstrate how AI is integrated to support instruction, personalize learning, and save teachers time — while being student-centered. Whether you're starting your district's AI journey or looking to scale promising practices, this session offers actionable insights and a look into Colorado's statewide strategy for building AI readiness in K-12 education.	Friday, July 25, 8:30 AM - 9:45 AM	Beaver Run Coppertop
Dr. Dan Jorgensen, CDE; Aislinn Wales, CDE	Colorado Data Tools for Supporting Educational Improvement	An understanding of assessment and accountability data is essential to support informed decision-making by educational stakeholders. This interactive session will provide a basic orientation to the online tools that are available through CDE for accessing district and school performance data. Also, we will discuss the application of that data to the improvement planning process, and we encourage you to bring your own laptops to explore these tools under the guidance of presenters. You will walk away with an understanding of how to access and leverage state-level data resources to inform local planning and decision-making.	Friday, July 25, 8:30 AM - 9:45 AM	Beaver Run Summit Gallery Peak 11
Dr. Nicole Paxton, Harrison School District 2; Dr. Angela Valdez, Harrison School District 2; Terita Walker, Denver Public Schools; David Grabowski, South Routt RE-3; Michelle Rubidoux-Wilson, Alamosa School District; Liz Walhof, Academy School District 20	Leadership in Action: A Conversation with Colorado's Principal and Assistant Principals of the Year	This panel discussion will feature the 2025 Colorado Principal and Assistant Principals of the Year. Together, these outstanding educational leaders will engage in a powerful conversation on transformational leadership in today's schools. The panel will explore how they are navigating current challenges in education, such as supporting staff morale, increasing student engagement, addressing equity and inclusion, and strengthening school culture. With diverse experiences and roles across the K-12 spectrum, these leaders will share practical strategies for cultivating positive learning environments, fostering resilient teams, and leading with vision and empathy. You will gain inspiration and actionable insights from some of the most effective and innovative school leaders in Colorado—a great way to get ready to kick off a new school year!	Friday, July 25, 8:30 AM - 9:45 AM	Beaver Run Beaver Den
Nelle Biggs, Summit RE-1; Finessa Ferrell, Colorado Education Initiative; Kristin Devlin-Vollmar, Adams 12 Five Star Schools	Leading for Belonging: How Successful Principals Pull Strategic Levers to Cultivate Community	What do schools with a strong sense of student and staff belonging and positive wellness outcomes have in common? Strong, intentional leadership. In this session, explore how a group of successful Colorado principals are driving culture shifts to promote belonging for adults and students, setting the conditions for teacher retention and student success. Learn how these leaders create conditions for belonging by elevating student leadership, focusing on staff culture, designing responsive systems, and implementing strategies that build belonging competencies. Hear real-world examples of leadership moves that foster trust, vision, connection, and collective ownership. Whether you're a district leader or school-based educator, leave with fresh insight and actionable strategies to strengthen student and staff belonging and well-being across your community.	Friday, July 25, 8:30 AM - 9:45 AM	Beaver Run Base Nine Lounge
Steven Shelton, 27J Schools; Megan Weir, Boulder Valley School District; Ana Marlatt, 27J Schools; Cody Clark, 27J Schools; Jennifer Oldweiler, 27J Schools	Surviving Year One as a New Principal	Year 1 of your principalship can be challenging, even for the best leaders, and you don't always see the building and community challenges coming. Whether you are new to a school, new to a district, or moving up from within the school, there are always unique difficulties. Join us for a panel discussion of a group of principals from a variety of schools and levels who have made it successfully to Year 2. Principals will share their experience—both the good and bad!—and provide some strategies they used to overcome obstacles and advance their mission. We know that you will leave better prepared to thrive in your new role!	Friday, July 25, 8:30 AM - 9:45 AM	Beaver Run Summit Gallery, Peak 12
Jennifer Norris, Denver Public Schools	Talk it Out: How to Raise ACCESS MGP by Double Digits	How did a Title I school grow double digits in ACCESS MGP post-COVID and with an influx of new-to-country students? Come to this interactive breakout session to find out! Participants will learn and practice research-based strategies to increase English language development for multilingual learners. This session will provide best practices and real-time feedback for all who attend. Join us to talk it out and engage with other participants to increase outcomes for your language diverse students.	Friday, July 25, 8:30 AM - 9:45 AM	Beaver Run Summit Gallery, Peaks 6-8