CENTER for HIGH SCHOOL SUCCESS

LEADERSHIP SUMMIT 2026

ATTENDEE GUIDE

View our sessions. Plan your schedule. Design your experience.

CHOOSE THE RIGHT SESSION FOR YOU

Choose the right session for you

Every breakout listing includes two planning cues:

- **Target phase:** The implementation stage the session is designed to support.
- **Target audience:** The role(s) most likely to benefit from the content.

Phase and role labels identify the participants the content was designed with in mind. They are planning cues, not attendance restrictions. Anyone is welcome to attend any session, regardless of role or implementation phase.

IMPORTANT: Select your preferred sessions in the mobile app as soon as it becomes available so your first-choice sessions do not fill. The mobile app will be shared with participants the week of November 11.

Session capacity is limited, and the schedule is subject to change. Reserving a session communicates your intended selection and helps the planning team manage available seating.

Schedule subject to change. Please use the event app for any on-site updates.

THURSDAY AT A GLANCE

7 AM-8 AM	**Breakfast**
8 AM-9 AM	**Welcome & Keynote ft. Jennifer Troy, Chief Academic Officer, Aurora Public Schools, CO**
Block 1 **9:15 AM-10:15 AM**	**From Seminar to Skill-Building: Lessons from Four Schools** Any Phase • Any Role **Build the Feedback Loop: A Yearlong System for Student and Staff Voice** Phase 2 • Team Leads **"Wet Cement": Understanding the Research Behind Ninth Grade Success** Phase 1 • Any Role **Design Studio: Reimagining the Ninth Grade Experience** Phase 1 • Any Role
Block 2 **10:30 AM-11:30 AM**	**Navigating the Interactive Skills Wheel: From Hidden Barriers to Intentional Support** Any Phase • Any Role **Student Self-Assessment as Evidence: Connecting Tier 2 Trends to Tier 1 Practice** Phase 3 • Team Leads **District Leader Roundtable: Decisions, Tradeoffs, and Lessons from the Field** Phase 1 • District Leaders **Tara High School's Journey: Build, Measure, and Plan Forward** Any Phase • Any Role
Block 3 **11:45 AM-12:45 PM**	**CHSS Digital Navigator: From Student Insight to Follow-Through** Any Phase • Any Role **Meeting Makeover: Build an Agenda That Moves the Team** Phase 1 • Team Leads **Ninth Grade Success Online: A Virtual School Case Study** Any Phase • Any Role **Master Schedule Design: Creating Time for Teams and Intervention** Any Phase • School Administrators
12:45 PM-1:45 PM	**Lunch**
Block 4 **2 PM-3 PM**	**Visualized Data Systems: Making Student Growth Visible** Any Phase • Any Role **Leadership Moves That Turn Improvement Plans into Action** Any Phase • School Administrators **District Strategy Lab: Solving an Implementation Challenge** Phase 1, Phase 2 • District Leaders **George Washington High School: Turning Strategy into Results** Any Phase • Any Role

Block 5 **3:15 PM-4:15 PM**	**Sponsor Hour with McGraw Hill** Any Phase • Any Role **Sponsor Hour with Seminar** Any Phase • Any Role **Sponsor Hour with SchooLinks** Any Phase • Any Role **Sponsor Hour with Willow Education** Any Phase • Any Role
4:15 PM-5:15 PM	**Networking Happy Hour**

FRIDAY AT A GLANCE

7 AM-8 AM	**Breakfast**
8 AM-9 AM	**Welcome & Keynote ft. Dezzarae Medina, Graduate & Leader, Camelback High School, PXU, AZ**
Block 1 **9:15 AM-10:15 AM**	**CHSS Digital Navigator: From Student Insight to Follow-Through** Any Phase • Any Role **Building the Throughline: A System-Wide Approach to Leveraging the CHSS Roadmap** Phase 3 • District Leaders, School Administrators **Start with What You Have: Adapting Ninth Grade Success to Existing Structures** Phase 1 • School Administrators **Screeners, Dashboards, and the Data That Moves 9th Graders Forward** Any Phase • Team Leads
Block 2 **10:30 AM-11:30 AM**	**Students Supporting Students: A Peer Leadership Model for Ninth Grade** Any Phase • Any Role **From Leadership Structure to Results: Montbello's Implementation Story** Any Phase • District Leaders, School Administrators **Grading for On-Track Success: McDaniel's Playbook** Phase 3 • Team Leads
Block 3 **11:45 AM-12:45 PM**	**Beyond Ninth Grade: Designing a 9–11 Success Continuum** Phase 3 • District Leaders, School Administrators **Teacher Leaders at the Center: Lessons from a First-Year Ninth Grade Team** Phase 1 • Team Leads **Launch Ready: The Freshman Academy Playbook for Building Team Efficacy and a Culture of Success** Phase 1 • Any Role **Bridging Grades 6–9: Designing Stronger Student Transitions** Phase 2, Phase 3 • District Leaders, School Administrators
12:45 PM-1:45 PM	**Lunch**
Block 4 **2 PM-3 PM**	**Intervention During the School Day: Three Models** Any Phase • Any Role **Kid Talk Clinic: From Conversation to Coordinated Support** Phase 2 • School Administrators, Team Leads **The Two Critical Handoffs: Into and Beyond Ninth Grade** Phase 2, Phase 3 • School Administrators **The Administrator's Playbook for Sustaining Ninth Grade Success Teams** Phase 2 • District Leaders, School Administrators

THURSDAY SESSION DETAILS

Block 1 | 9:15 AM-10:15 AM

From Seminar to Skill-Building: Lessons from Four Schools

Any Phase | Any Role

Find session presenters and location details in the mobile app. Add this session to your schedule in the app to secure your seat.

What can skill-building look like inside a Ninth Grade Seminar? Hear from four schools about the approaches they have tried, what they have learned, and how they have adapted along the way. The session offers a range of practical examples participants can consider for their own course and context.

Build the Feedback Loop: A Yearlong System for Student and Staff Voice

Phase 2 | Team Leads

Find session presenters and location details in the mobile app. Add this session to your schedule in the app to secure your seat.

Feedback is most useful when it becomes a dependable cycle rather than a one-time survey. Explore different ways to gather student and staff voice, plan meaningful feedback opportunities across the year, and connect what is heard to team action. Participants will begin shaping the feedback loop their community needs most.

“Wet Cement”: Understanding the Research Behind Ninth Grade Success

Phase 1 | Any Role

Find session presenters and location details in the mobile app. Add this session to your schedule in the app to secure your seat.

Why does ninth grade have such an outsized influence on a student’s future? Connect the Ninth Grade On-Track metric to the research on graduation and postsecondary outcomes, then consider what that evidence means for school and district practice. The session builds a clear, compelling case for making ninth-grade success a shared priority.

Design Studio: Reimagining the Ninth Grade Experience

Phase 1 | Any Role

Find session presenters and location details in the mobile app. Add this session to your schedule in the app to secure your seat.

Reimagine ninth grade from the student experience outward. This design studio explores the conditions that allow Ninth Grade Success structures to take hold, with particular attention to shared vision and stakeholder commitment. Participants will begin shaping a practical path toward launching Success Teams in their own setting.

Block 2 | 10:30 AM-11:30 AM

Navigating the Interactive Skills Wheel: From Hidden Barriers to Intentional Support

Any Phase | Any Role

Find session presenters and location details in the mobile app. Add this session to your schedule in the app to secure your seat.

Bring a real student-support challenge and put the Interactive Skills Wheel to work. Explore how student skill profiles, school expectations, and available resources connect, then use the tool to identify a promising next step. This hands-on lab is designed to make the Skills Wheel immediately useful in a school or district context.

Student Self-Assessment as Evidence: Connecting Tier 2 Trends to Tier 1 Practice

Phase 3 | Team Leads

Find session presenters and location details in the mobile app. Add this session to your schedule in the app to secure your seat.

Student self-assessments can reveal far more than whether a student feels confident. Experience a practical way to use student responses as evidence for reteaching, reassessment, and more connected Tier 1 and Tier 2 support. Through hands-on strategy sorting, participants will see how patterns in student voice can guide a clearer instructional response.

District Leader Roundtable: Decisions, Tradeoffs, and Lessons from the Field

Phase 1 | District Leaders

Find session presenters and location details in the mobile app. Add this session to your schedule in the app to secure your seat.

What does Ninth Grade Success look like from the district seat? Hear directly from district leaders about the decisions, challenges, and lessons that have shaped their work across schools. This candid conversation will surface practical insights for building alignment, supporting school leaders, and deciding where district leadership can make the greatest difference.

Tara High School's Journey: Build, Measure, and Plan Forward

Any Phase | Any Role

Find session presenters and location details in the mobile app. Add this session to your schedule in the app to secure your seat.

Follow Tara High School's journey from building its ninth-grade foundation to using data to demonstrate growth and plan what comes next. The team will share how its structures, results, and Master Plan connect as part of an ongoing improvement story. Participants will see how a school can celebrate progress while continuing to raise its ambitions.

Block 3 | 11:45 AM-12:45 PM

CHSS Digital Navigator: From Student Insight to Follow-Through

Any Phase | Any Role

Find session presenters and location details in the mobile app. Add this session to your schedule in the app to secure your seat.

See how the CHSS Digital Navigator can bring student insights, team routines, and practical resources into one connected experience. Explore how integrated screeners, a reimagined Kid Talk process, and timely guidance can help teams make stronger support decisions and follow through on them.

Meeting Makeover: Build an Agenda That Moves the Team

Phase 1 | Team Leads

Find session presenters and location details in the mobile app. Add this session to your schedule in the app to secure your seat.

If a team meeting feels unfocused or repetitive, the design may be the problem. Rework the essential ingredients of an effective meeting, including purpose, norms, and agenda structure, while considering how each shapes trust and follow-through. Participants will leave with a customized meeting template ready to use with a team, PLC, department, or leadership group.

Ninth Grade Success Online: A Virtual School Case Study

Any Phase | Any Role

Find session presenters and location details in the mobile app. Add this session to your schedule in the app to secure your seat.

What does Ninth Grade Success look like when the entire school experience is virtual? Step inside Pecos Cyber Academy's model to see how Kid Talk, Empathy Interviews, and Family Academic Support Team Leads create connection and coordinated support across distance. The session offers a concrete example of adapting core CHSS practices to a very different setting.

Master Schedule Design: Creating Time for Teams and Intervention

Any Phase | School Administrators

Find session presenters and location details in the mobile app. Add this session to your schedule in the app to secure your seat.

The master schedule can either create the conditions for Ninth Grade Success or make the work significantly harder. Explore how Common Planning Time, student cohorts, and interdisciplinary teaming can create more space for collaboration, shared ownership, and timely student support. Consider what adjustments to your own scheduling structures could unlock stronger implementation.

Block 4 | 2 PM-3 PM

Visualized Data Systems: Making Student Growth Visible

Any Phase | Any Role

Find session presenters and location details in the mobile app. Add this session to your schedule in the app to secure your seat.

What changes when student progress becomes something a whole team can actually see? Experience a visual, hands-on approach to tracking student skills and other data that makes growth and patterns easier to recognize, discuss, and act on. See how this practice can strengthen shared ownership and help Ninth Grade Success teams turn information into action.

Leadership Moves That Turn Improvement Plans into Action

Any Phase | School Administrators

Find session presenters and location details in the mobile app. Add this session to your schedule in the app to secure your seat.

Improvement plans gain traction when leaders turn priorities into consistent action. Explore the leadership moves that create focus, strengthen team alignment, and help a school adapt as the work unfolds. Participants will connect the CHSS Roadmap to a current priority and identify one move that can build momentum back home.

District Strategy Lab: Solving an Implementation Challenge

Phase 1, Phase 2 | District Leaders

Find session presenters and location details in the mobile app. Add this session to your schedule in the app to secure your seat.

Bring a real district-level challenge to a collaborative strategy lab. Participants will use a Problem of Practice Protocol to uncover how district systems, leadership choices, and partnership with CHSS can remove barriers and strengthen school-level implementation. The emphasis is on learning through a current challenge and leaving with a clearer path forward.

George Washington High School: Turning Strategy into Results

Any Phase | Any Role

Find session presenters and location details in the mobile app. Add this session to your schedule in the app to secure your seat.

Go inside George Washington High School's Ninth Grade Success journey and the strategies that helped improve student outcomes. Presenters will share the challenges they faced, the choices they made, and what they learned in the process. Participants will consider which parts of the school's experience could translate to their own context.

Block 5 | 3:15 PM-4:15 PM

Sponsor Hour with McGraw Hill

Any Phase | Any Role

Find session and location details in the mobile app. Add this session to your schedule in the app to secure your seat.

Sponsor Hour with SchooLinks

Any Phase | Any Role

Find session and location details in the mobile app. Add this session to your schedule in the app to secure your seat.

Sponsor Hour with Seminar

Any Phase | Any Role

Find session and location details in the mobile app. Add this session to your schedule in the app to secure your seat.

Sponsor Hour with Willow Education

Any Phase | Any Role

Find session and location details in the mobile app. Add this session to your schedule in the app to secure your seat.

FRIDAY SESSION DETAILS

Block 1 | 9:15 AM-10:15 AM

CHSS Digital Navigator: From Student Insight to Follow-Through

Any Phase | Any Role

Find session presenters and location details in the mobile app. Add this session to your schedule in the app to secure your seat.

See how the CHSS Digital Navigator can bring student insights, team routines, and practical resources into one connected experience. Explore how integrated screeners, a reimagined Kid Talk process, and timely guidance can help teams make stronger support decisions and follow through on them.

Building the Throughline: A System-Wide Approach to Leveraging the CHSS Roadmap

Phase 3 | District Leaders, School Administrators

Find session presenters and location details in the mobile app. Add this session to your schedule in the app to secure your seat.

What would it take for students to experience one connected support system from middle school through graduation? Explore how the CHSS Roadmap, grade-level meetings, data practices, Kid Talk, and the Skills Wheel can work together across grades and schools. The session offers a district-level vision for a coherent Grades 6–11 competency pathway.

Start with What You Have: Adapting Ninth Grade Success to Existing Structures

Phase 1 | School Administrators

Find session presenters and location details in the mobile app. Add this session to your schedule in the app to secure your seat.

Schools do not have to wait for perfect conditions to begin stronger Ninth Grade Success work. See how existing structures can become practical starting points for shared leadership, consistent data review, Kid Talks, and targeted support. The session focuses on building reliable routines now while developing toward the fuller Roadmap model.

Screeners, Dashboards, and the Data That Moves 9th Graders Forward

Any Phase | Team Leads

Find session presenters and location details in the mobile app. Add this session to your schedule in the app to secure your seat.

Dashboards and screeners are most valuable when they improve the conversation, not just the report. Explore how teams can interpret key patterns, surface strengths and concerns, and use what they see to prioritize support and monitor progress. This session connects the data on the screen to better team decisions for students.

Block 2 | 10:30 AM-11:30 AM

Students Supporting Students: A Peer Leadership Model for Ninth Grade

Any Phase | Any Role

Find session presenters and location details in the mobile app. Add this session to your schedule in the app to secure your seat.

Older students can reach ninth graders in ways adults sometimes cannot. Explore a peer leadership model that positions students as partners in building belonging, strengthening academic habits, and supporting skill development. Consider where student leaders could add value to Ninth Grade Success work in your own school.

From Leadership Structure to Results: Montbello's Implementation Story

Any Phase | District Leaders, School Administrators

Find session presenters and location details in the mobile app. Add this session to your schedule in the app to secure your seat.

Go behind the results at Montbello High School to see how leadership structure shaped implementation. The school's experience shows how distributed decision-making, shared ownership, and thoughtful use of data can build momentum for Ninth Grade Success. Participants will consider which leadership choices could strengthen the work in their own setting.

Grading for On-Track Success: McDaniel's Playbook

Phase 3 | Team Leads

Find session presenters and location details in the mobile app. Add this session to your schedule in the app to secure your seat.

See how McDaniel High School connected Ninth Grade Success Teams and PLCs to make grading more fair, consistent, and supportive of students staying on track. From common rubrics and revision cycles to student self-assessment and paths to credit, the session offers concrete examples of grading practices teams can adapt to their own context.

Block 3 | 11:45 AM-12:45 PM

Beyond Ninth Grade: Designing a 9–11 Success Continuum

Phase 3 | District Leaders, School Administrators

Find session presenters and location details in the mobile app. Add this session to your schedule in the app to secure your seat.

Ninth-grade success shouldn't end when students become sophomores. Explore how the strongest elements of a ninth-grade success system can evolve to support students through grades 10 and 11, while recognizing that older students may need different approaches. Think beyond a single grade toward a more connected pathway for monitoring progress, coordinating support, and keeping students on track to graduation.

Teacher Leaders at the Center: Lessons from a First-Year Ninth Grade Team

Phase 1 | Team Leads

Find session presenters and location details in the mobile app. Add this session to your schedule in the app to secure your seat.

What happens when teacher leaders are positioned at the center of Ninth Grade Success? Learn from Muncie Central High School's planning year and first year of implementation, including how Team Academy structures supported collaboration, connection, and collective efficacy. The school's experience also shows how teacher leadership can influence the story a community tells about its students.

Launch Ready: The Freshman Academy Playbook for Building Team Efficacy and a Culture of Success

Phase 1 | Any Role

Find session presenters and location details in the mobile app. Add this session to your schedule in the app to secure your seat.

A strong Ninth Grade Success model begins with more than a meeting on the calendar. Explore the structures, expectations, team practices, and culture that create a reliable foundation for the CHSS Roadmap. This session helps participants see how collaborative data use and shared accountability translate into a more connected experience for students.

Bridging Grades 6–9: Designing Stronger Student Transitions

Phase 2, Phase 3 | District Leaders, School Administrators

Find session presenters and location details in the mobile app. Add this session to your schedule in the app to secure your seat.

The transition to high school starts well before the first day of ninth grade. Examine the skills and indicators that matter across grades 6–9 and how middle and high schools can coordinate support around them. This session focuses on making the handoff more intentional so students enter high school with greater continuity and readiness.

Block 4 | 2 PM-3 PM

Intervention During the School Day: Three Models

Any Phase | Any Role

Find session presenters and location details in the mobile app. Add this session to your schedule in the app to secure your seat.

There is no single way to create meaningful intervention time during the school day. Compare three models from Washington districts, including whole-school walk-to-help, common-prep student focus groups and supports, and proactive academic contracts. Hear what each model requires operationally and how schools built the understanding and support needed to put it into practice.

Kid Talk Clinic: From Conversation to Coordinated Support

Phase 2 | School Administrators, Team Leads

Find session presenters and location details in the mobile app. Add this session to your schedule in the app to secure your seat.

A strong Kid Talk should lead somewhere. Go inside Northeast Early College's approach to see how structure, shared ownership, and consistent team practices help turn conversations about students into coordinated support. You'll leave with practical ideas for making Kid Talk more focused, useful, and actionable for your own team.

The Two Critical Handoffs: Into and Beyond Ninth Grade

Phase 2, Phase 3 | School Administrators

Find session presenters and location details in the mobile app. Add this session to your schedule in the app to secure your seat.

Two transitions can significantly shape a student's high school experience: entering ninth grade and moving into tenth. Take a close look at what students encounter at each handoff and where current practices may leave gaps. Participants will use that perspective to identify practical improvements for both transitions.

The Administrator's Playbook for Sustaining Ninth Grade Success Teams

Phase 2 | District Leaders, School Administrators

Find session presenters and location details in the mobile app. Add this session to your schedule in the app to secure your seat.

Launching a Ninth Grade Success Team is only the beginning. Learn how three focused administrator moves, a practical communication and tracking system, and a purposeful Kid Talk process can keep the work moving between meetings and over time. The session connects day-to-day leadership choices with stronger, more coordinated support for students.