

Consolidated Learning Tracks

Educational Access and Achievement (EA)

Includes:

- Early Childhood Education (EC)
- Academic Achievement (AA)
- Post-secondary Education (PS)

Description:

This learning track will focus on ensuring equitable access to high-quality education from early learning through higher education. Sessions will highlight strategies that promote school stability, enrollment continuity, academic achievement, and successful transitions to and through postsecondary education.

Presentation Content Examples:

Topics may include early childhood identification, credit accrual, academic recovery, college readiness, student attendance / dropout prevention, support for special education students, literacy intervention, strategies for teaching and learning, and promising practices for supporting the academic needs of students experiencing homelessness across the entire educational pipeline.

Access to Services and Systems Navigation (AS)

Includes:

- Access to Services (AS)
- Housing (H)

Description:

This learning track will help attendees explore the intersection of education with health, housing, human services, and child welfare systems. Attendees will learn strategies to identify, refer, and connect students and families with essential services, including food security, medical care, transportation, and stable housing.

Presentation Content Examples:

Topics may include strategies for accessing housing support, healthcare, food security, transportation, legal assistance, and public benefits. Emphasis will be placed on the role of McKinney-Vento liaisons and inter-agency partnerships to reduce barriers, enhance service coordination, and ensure that basic needs are addressed as a foundation for educational success.

Vulnerable Youth and Cross-System Collaboration (VY)

Includes:

- Child Welfare/Foster Care (CW)
- Unaccompanied Homeless Youth (UHY)
- Other vulnerable youth populations (e.g., justice-involved, immigrant/refugee, LGBTQ+, or system-involved youth) (VP)

Description:

This track is designed to elevate the experiences and needs of youth who face compounded barriers due to system involvement, lack of family support, or unique vulnerabilities. Sessions will also explore collaborative models with child welfare systems, foster care support, juvenile justice, and integrated service delivery to improve student outcomes.

Presentation Content Examples:

Topics may include the education and stability of youth in foster care, legal protections for unaccompanied homeless youth, identification and outreach strategies, LGBTQ+ affirming practices, and cross-agency collaboration between education, child welfare, juvenile justice, and community-based organizations. Sessions should highlight innovative practices, policies, and partnerships that improve educational outcomes and holistic support for these youth.

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Mental, Social, and Emotional Well-Being (MW)

Includes:

- Social Emotional/Behavioral Health (SE)

Description:

This learning track is dedicated to advancing the mental, social, and emotional well-being of children and youth experiencing homelessness and other intersecting vulnerabilities. Sessions will highlight research-based practices, policy-informed strategies, and collaborative approaches that foster safe, supportive, and trauma-responsive environments.

Presentation Content Examples:

Topics may include trauma-informed care, behavioral intervention strategies, self-regulation, mental health access, inclusive school climates, and fostering resilience. Emphasis will be placed on promoting healing-centered engagement and preventing trauma in school settings.

Effective Practices and Implementation (EP)

Includes:

- Data Management (DM)
- Program Implementation (PI)
- Collaboration and Partnerships (CP)

Description:

This learning track is designed to highlight evidence-based, field-tested strategies, replicable models, and innovative tools that translate policy into practice. This track is designed to highlight cross-sector collaboration among other federal programs, schools and/or district staff. Sessions will focus on actionable solutions for McKinney-Vento liaisons, educators, service providers, and administrators to support full student participation in school and strengthen program implementation at the local, state, and institutional levels.

Presentation Content Examples:

Topics may include program monitoring and compliance, professional development delivery, cross-school and district collaboration with other established education programs (Title I, migrant, special education/gifted, etc.), data collection and evaluation, use of implementation frameworks, and continuous improvement cycles. This track will also highlight scalable solutions and practical tools designed to increase identification, remove barriers, and ensure educational stability for children and youth experiencing homelessness and other vulnerabilities.

Research and Evidence (RE) *New for 2026*

Includes:

- Research and Evaluation (RA)
- Data Analysis and Interpretation (DA)
- Emerging Trends and Policy Insights (ET)
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Description:

This learning track is designed to highlight current research, data-informed practices, and emerging evidence that deepen understanding of the educational experiences and outcomes of children and youth who have experienced homelessness or other vulnerabilities. This track emphasizes the connection between research, policy, and practice, and encourages the use of data to inform decision-making at the local, state, and national levels. Sessions will support McKinney-Vento liaisons, educators, researchers, policymakers, and service providers in applying research findings to strengthen programs, improve outcomes, and advance systems-level change.

Presentation Content Examples:

Topics may include qualitative and quantitative research studies, program evaluation findings, longitudinal data analysis, and research-practice partnerships. Sessions may also explore emerging trends, policy implications, and the use of data to identify gaps, inform resource allocation, and guide continuous improvement. This track will highlight innovative research approaches and actionable insights that support evidence-based decision-making and contribute to improved educational access, stability, and success for children and youth experiencing homelessness and other vulnerabilities.