



Thriving Schools Attendance Lab for Local Educational Agencies

Enhance your district's capacity to promote regular attendance.

Overview of the Attendance Lab

The Western Educational Equity Assistance Center (WEEAC) invites local educational agencies (LEAs) to participate in the newly launched Thriving Schools Attendance Lab, a no-cost coaching opportunity to examine and address student attendance and chronic absenteeism.

Through the Thriving Schools Attendance Lab, we aim to

- Analyze and understand attendance barriers and strengths using multiple data sources
- Build comprehensive, data-based systems that link attendance challenges to factors like health, school climate, and academic supports
- Create holistic responses that address these interconnected issues
- Test, refine, and adapt strategies based on findings

The Thriving Schools Attendance Lab will launch in March 2026.

Key Components

To support school districts in strengthening student attendance and connections, the Thriving Schools Attendance Lab offers coaching that drives meaningful and sustainable improvement. The Lab involves a series of coaching sessions in which a WEEAC expert collaborates directly with the LEA team.

- **Pre-Series Check-In Call.** The WEEAC coach holds an initial meeting with the LEA team to explore the assets and opportunities that currently exist related to attendance and student connections. From this conversation, the WEEAC team will design a series of coaching sessions that address the unique context of the participating LEA.
- **Minimum of Four 60-Minute Coaching Sessions.** Each participating LEA is expected to commit to at least four and up to seven individualized coaching sessions between March and the end of September 2026. Each session will include four key elements:
 - **Sharing—coaching** with your team on a problem of practice related to attendance
 - **Root cause analysis** to investigate underlying factors contributing to the problem



- **Reflection and inquiry**, which involves sharing insights, reflecting as a group, and building understanding as a group
- **Action planning** with your team about how to apply learning and address root causes
- **Resources.** The WEEAC will provide additional resources that LEA teams can use to deepen their learning.

What Participants Will Learn

With expert guidance provided by the Lab, LEAs will use evidence-based tools to explore attendance opportunities and challenges. Grounded in best practices related to data interpretation, data use, school climate improvement, safe and supportive learning environment design, attendance improvement, and partner engagement, this opportunity will help LEA teams build their capacity to effectively address barriers to attendance.

Coaching activities may include

- Examining multiple data sources to deepen understanding of attendance challenges
- Using improvement science strategies to identify and test out possible solutions
- Reviewing current policies and practices to check for alignment with solutions for addressing current challenges
- Identifying meaningful metrics to measure impact
- Adjusting approaches to achieve lasting improvements

Who Should Join

We encourage LEAs to participate as a team of two or three committed individuals. The Lab is open to all LEAs from the following states and territories: *Alaska, American Samoa, Arizona, California, Colorado, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, Guam, Hawai'i, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, Oregon, Utah, Washington, and Wyoming.*

For more information and to apply for the Thriving Schools Attendance Lab,
email weeac@wested.org.