Ninth Grade Success Grant
Cohort 3

Grantees in Cohort 3 applied for 2 years of funding starting in July 2026

District: Adams 12	
School Served: Thornton HS; District	**FY26 Award Amount: $50,000; $50,000**
Contact: Adriane Bohlender;	**FY27 Award Amount: $50,000; $50,000**
Program Description: This grant is aligned with the work being done in Adams 12 districtwide, with a specific focus on supporting Northglenn HS and Thornton HS to continue their work providing proactive support and interventions to rising 9th graders academically and with social emotional learning.	

District: Alamosa	
School Served: Alamosa Online; District	**FY26 Award Amount: $45,000; $45,000**
Contact: Amy Ortega;	**FY27 Award Amount: $45,000; $45,000**
Program Description: Building existing advisory, ICAP, and postsecondary pathway systems, the district will implement structured transition programming, data-informed progress monitoring, and coordinated academic and social-emotional supports. Efforts will focus on early identification of attendance and course performance concerns, strengthened family communication, and targeted interventions aligned to graduation goals. By formalizing consistent ninth-grade systems, Alamosa will reduce course failure, improve credit attainment, and ensure more students enter tenth grade prepared for long-term academic success and postsecondary readiness.	

District: Aurora (Adams/Arapahoe)	
School Served: Gateway HS; Hinkley HS	**FY26 Award Amount: $44,737; $45,263**
Contact: Kara Kloberdanz; Patrick Van Der Kwast	**FY27 Award Amount: $44,737; $45,263**
Program Description: Aurora Public Schools (APS) is committed to supporting ninth-grade students in successfully transitioning to high school and preparing for graduation. Funding will continue the Ninth Grade Success Framework targeting ongoing support.	

District: Centennial	
School Served: Centennial HS	**FY26 Award Amount: $45,000**
Contact: Kimba Rael	**FY27 Award Amount: $45,000**
Program Description: This grant advances three interconnected goals to fully implement and sustain the Ninth Grade Success framework. First, the district will strengthen and stabilize the Ninth Grade Success Team through ongoing coaching to ensure effective collaboration and implementation fidelity. Second, the district will embed sustainable weekly data systems, supported by the Student Success Center and Data Support position, enabling teachers and staff to make timely instructional and intervention decisions. Third, and most critically, the district will elevate Instructional Support as the central focus by analyzing attendance, engagement, and grade data to strengthen rigor, improve classroom practice, and ensure student success reflects mastery and long-term graduation readiness.	

District: Center	
School Served: Center HS; Center Virtual Academy	**FY26 Award Amount: $29,000; $31,000**
Contact: Nicole Neufeld;	**FY27 Award Amount: $29,000; $31,000**
Program Description: The program will provide structured, common planning time for the 9th Grade Success Team to meet regularly, analyze student performance data and high-risk indicators, and implement high-impact strategies to support student needs. Through ongoing collaboration, targeted supports, interventions, and effective math practices, the program aims to strengthen foundational math skills, increase student confidence, and ensure more students are on track for high school and postsecondary success.	

District: Colorado Early College Colorado Springs	
School Served: CEC Colorado Springs	**FY26 Award Amount: $50,000**
Contact: Jennifer Daugherty	**FY27 Award Amount: $50,000**
Program Description: The grant will deepen math instructional capacity and strengthen 8th to 9th grade transition supports through expanded academic advising and the launch of LINK Crew. These efforts will improve course completion and graduation rates and advance long-term success for incoming freshmen.	

District: Colorado Early College Douglas County	
School Served: CEC Douglas County	**FY26 Award Amount: $50,000**
Contact: Frutoso Chavez	**FY27 Award Amount: $50,000**
Program Description: The Ninth Grade Success Program supports freshmen through advisory, social-emotional learning, progress monitoring, and targeted interventions-ensuring a strong transition into high school and sustained academic momentum toward graduation and postsecondary achievement.	

District: Colorado Military Academy (D11)	
School Served: Colorado Military Academy	**FY26 Award Amount: $50,000**
Contact: Edward Van Norman	**FY27 Award Amount: $50,000**
Program Description: Colorado Military Academy will further develop our 9th Grade Success Program and team, fostering academic excellence and lifelong leadership skills. Key initiatives include a 4-Day Summer Academic Launch to front-load high school rigor and a fluid MTSS framework providing targeted Tier 2 and Tier 3 supports. This systemic approach empowers our team to ensure every cadet achieves credit health and a persistent path toward graduation.	

District: Colorado Springs D11	
School Served: Mitchell HS; District	**FY26 Award Amount: $45,000; $30,000 FY27 Award Amount: $45,000; $30,000**
Contact: Valerie Jordan; Jennifer Schulte	
Program Description: Colorado Springs School District 11's (D11) Ninth Grade Success initiative strengthens ninth grade systems across participating high schools by enhancing cohesive Ninth Grade Teams, implementing early-warning systems, and expanding targeted academic and social-emotional supports. In partnership with the Center for High School Success (CHSS), D11 educators receive dedicated coaching, research-based professional learning, data-driven tools, and implementation resources. Together, this work builds aligned, sustainable ninth grade structures that identify students early, deliver timely interventions, and improve on-track rates-laying the foundation for higher graduation outcomes across D11.	

District: Denver Public Schools	
School Served: Montbello HS; DMLK	**FY26 Award Amount: $25,000; $25,000 FY27 Award Amount: $25,000; $25,000**
Contact: Jeronimo Alvarez; Stephanie Hassel	
Program Description: Recognizing that ninth-grade performance is the primary indicator of long-term graduation success, our mission focuses on academic rigor and holistic support. Through our collaboration with the Center for High School Success, our ninth-grade success team utilizes real-time data analysis to intervene early. Our strategic goal is to build a culture of belonging that boosts attendance rates, ensuring that our students have consistent access to the high-level instruction they need to lead.	

District: Englewood	
School Served: Englewood HS	**FY26 Award Amount: $85,000 FY27 Award Amount: $85,000**
Contact: Nate Smith	
Program Description: This initiative is designed to increase on-time promotion, academic achievement, and student engagement during the critical transition to high school. Using an interdisciplinary 9th Grade Success Team, real-time data dashboard, and targeted academic and behavioral interventions, the district will proactively identify and support at-risk students. The program emphasizes collaboration, progress monitoring, and continuous improvement, with systems designed for scalability across grade levels to ensure sustained, equitable student success.	

District: Garfield	
School Served: Rifle HS	**FY26 Award Amount: $97,650**
Contact: Steve Johnston	**FY27 Award Amount: $97,650**
Program Description: Rifle High School will address persistent gaps in academic readiness, credit attainment, and graduation outcomes. We will establish a cross-disciplinary Success Team, real time early-warning data system, targeted instructional and math interventions, and expanded transition supports including orientation and Freshman Focus Course. A dedicated coordinator will lead implementation and monitoring. With district oversight and integrated academic, behavioral, and social emotional supports, the initiative aims to increase course pass rates, improve on-track status, and strengthen long-term graduation outcomes.	

District: Harrison 2	
School Served: Harrison HS; Sierra HS	**FY26 Award Amount: $45,000; $45,000**
Contact: Heather Mavel; Andrew Bristol	**FY27 Award Amount: $45,000; $45,000**
Program Description: During the first 2.5 years of implementation, Harrison School District 2 demonstrated measurable improvement in ninth-grade outcomes at Harrison and Sierra High Schools. Course pass rates and on-track rates increased at both schools, with particularly strong gains at Sierra. Attendance trends were mixed across schools, indicating the need for continued monitoring and targeted supports. Disciplinary outcomes improved at both sites, with reductions in ninth-grade suspensions, reflecting stronger systems and more coordinated student supports.	

District: Huerfano	
School Served: Walsenburg Jr/Sr HS	**FY26 Award Amount: $45,000**
Contact: Amanda Vialpando	**FY27 Award Amount: $45,000**
Program Description: Funding will sustain and deepen implementation of the Ninth Grade Success model. Over the past two years, the district has established a cross-disciplinary success team, strengthened early warning data systems, expanded transition programming, and partnered with CHSS to improve ninth-grade outcomes. As a result, attendance, course passage, and on-track rates have significantly increased. Continuation funding will support sustaining these gains, strengthening Tier 2 and Tier 3 academic interventions, particularly in mathematics, enhancing eighth-to-ninth grade transition supports, and institutionalizing data-driven practices to ensure long-term improvements in graduation outcomes.	

District: Jefferson County	
School Served: Arvada HS; JeffCo Remote Learning; Jefferson Jr/Sr HS	**FY26 Award Amount: $66,000; $67,000; $67,000**
Contact: Jason Firestone; Kala Munguia; Kristin Landes	**FY27 Award Amount: $66,000; $67,000; $67,000**
Program Description: Grounded in the CHSS Roadmap, the initiative focuses on building high-functioning Success Teams, implementing real-time data monitoring systems, and providing structured transition supports. Key objectives include increasing credit attainment, enhancing math achievement, and reducing dropout rates through targeted interventions and professional development. The plan emphasizes early identification of at-risk students and rapid re-engagement strategies to ensure students remain on track for graduation.	

District: Mapleton	
School Served: Mapleton Expeditionary School	**FY26 Award Amount: $14,100**
Contact: Jared Powell	**FY27 Award Amount: $14,100**
Program Description: Building on successful Ninth Grade Success implementation, MESA will focus on three priorities: experiential, community-building transition experiences, student peer mentoring training, and math interventions for ninth graders with significant skill gaps. These efforts will help incoming freshmen build belonging, develop strong academic habits, and receive the support needed to stay on track for graduation.	

District: Mesa 51	
School Served: Grand River Academy	**FY26 Award Amount: $42,343**
Contact: Ari Goldberg	**FY27 Award Amount: $42,343**
Program Description: By establishing cross-disciplinary Success Teams, the district will utilize an Early Warning System to bridge the eighth-to-ninth grade transition gap, ensuring all students and teachers have the resources for graduation on-track success.	

District: Poudre	
School Served: Poudre HS	**FY26 Award Amount: $50,000**
Contact: Carey Christensen	**FY27 Award Amount: $50,000**
Program Description: Grant funding will sustain a full-time 9th grade success staff member, expand professional development, strengthen Tier 1-3 systems, improve data literacy, and rebuild transition supports such as a summer bridge program.	

District: Pueblo 60	
School Served: Centennial HS; East HS; South HS	**FY26 Award Amount: $42,000; $42,000; $42,000**
Contact: Marci Imes	**FY27 Award Amount: $42,000; $42,000; $42,000**
Program Description: We will continue to strengthen our comprehensive ninth grade support model focused on engagement, successful transition, and early identification of academic and social-emotional barriers to success. A Ninth Grade Success Team and a dedicated team lead will ensure that all high schools have the necessary tools, training, and support. District leadership will ensure alignment, best practices, and communication across all high schools involved in the grant. Funding will also support tutoring, and a Summer Bridge program for incoming freshmen promoting credit attainment, confidence, and a strong foundation for high school success to keep students on track.	

District: San Luis Valley BOCES	
School Served: Monte Vista HS; SLV BOCES	**FY26 Award Amount: $95,000; $20,000**
Contact: Katrina Ruggles	**FY27 Award Amount: $95,000; $20,000**
Program Description: Through formalized Success Teams, integrated early warning data systems, LINK advisory programming, targeted mathematics tutoring, comprehensive transition supports, and coordinated behavioral health collaboration, the initiative establishes sustainable MTSS-aligned systems that strengthen freshman stability and long-term graduation outcomes across the San Luis Valley.	

District: School District 27J	
School Served: Prairie View HS	**FY26 Award Amount: $30,000**
Contact: Greg Haan	**FY27 Award Amount: $30,000**
Program Description: The 9th Grade Academy at Prairie View High School has been assessed and reimagined for maximum impact. To strengthen student-teacher relationships and provide consistent tracking and intervention, PVHS will divide freshmen into three Houses and provide an interventionist for each. These teachers will implement the centerpiece of our transition program: fall Freshman Academy classes. They will also provide individualized and group support, including spring Academic Support classes for students not squarely on track for graduation. Through a partnership with the Center for High School Success, this grant supports all ninth-grade staff with coaching, conferences, and site visits, as well as substitutes to allow professional development with Capturing Kids' Hearts.	

District: St Vrain Valley School District	
School Served: Skyline HS; Longmont HS	**FY26 Award Amount: $50,000; $50,000**
Contact: Lorri Vandiver	**FY27 Award Amount: $50,000; $50,000**
Program Description: We will strengthen and refine ninth grade success systems at Longmont High School and Skyline High School. Funding will support dedicated ninth grade leadership to coordinate weekly data review, early intervention, and instructional supports designed to prevent course failure before it occurs. The goal of the program is to increase ninth grade on-track rates and ensure more students graduate on time.	

District: Trinidad	
School Served: Trinidad HS	**FY26 Award Amount: $100,000**
Contact: Olivia Bachicha	**FY27 Award Amount: $100,000**
Program Description: We will hire a 9th grade success team lead/math interventionist and use stipends for additional out of contract time for the 9th grade success team's data meetings and for additional math tutoring in order to improve 9th grader's academic results (especially in math) and transition into high school under more rigorous graduation requirements.	

District: Westminster	
School Served: Westminster HS	**FY26 Award Amount: $85,000**
Contact: Rachel Ilk	**FY27 Award Amount: $85,000**
Program Description: Westminster High School will implement a redesigned Ninth Grade Success model centered on a structured Freshman Academy taught by a cohort of seven trained teachers. The program will establish a formal Ninth Grade Success Team with protected collaboration time, a defined early warning data system, aligned AVID-based instructional supports, and strengthened transition programming from eleven feeder schools. The initiative will improve ninth-grade course passage, on-track rates, and growth in mathematics within a competency-based framework while building internal capacity for long-term sustainability.	