Throughout the day-long meeting, the CWELC team met as a full group and in state-specific teams. The following themes emerged from the discussions:

- **Data sharing.** Data sharing across education and child welfare systems has traditionally been limited and disjointed. With growing federal attention to this issue (e.g. Uninterrupted Scholar’s Act), efforts are underway to develop more effective data sharing mechanisms and policies to promote child well-being and coordinate services across systems. Such mechanisms and policies are essential to identifying and supporting effective practices and policies.

- **Student mobility.** Tracking children between and across the child welfare and education systems is a major and well-documented challenge. Some students fall “off the grid” and subsequently do not receive necessary services. Frequently changing schools, which is particularly common among students known to child welfare, is linked to poorer educational outcomes. A priority of CWELC is to identify strategies for improving supports for students who experience frequent moves from school to school.

- **Use of evidence.** While broad-based research evidence can be powerful in its ability to inform and influence policy and practice, the CWELC state teams agree on the need for locally relevant educational data on children within the child welfare system to develop the most appropriate evidence-informed strategies for addressing their challenges.

- **Cultural competency.** There are cultural factors to be considered when working with all children and particularly with children in the child welfare system. There is a need for greater and more in-depth exchange of culturally relevant information.

- **Challenges across the systems.** Practitioners in county and state education and child welfare departments, as well as those in school systems acknowledged the stress of minimal resources, communication barriers, and lack of information sharing as major factors in the gaps of services for children in the welfare system.

- **Different needs at policy and practice levels.** Policymakers and practitioners have distinct needs for information, strategies for addressing challenges, and other resources.

**CWELC’s role in informing policy and practice:** The CWELC intends to develop a product that incorporates evidence-based recommendations for addressing the above themes and to disseminate that product across levels of policy and practice.
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The Child Welfare and Education Learning Community is a project of the University-Based Child and Family Policy Consortium. Thanks to Consortium members in IL, MN, and NC for leading the project and to the William T. Grant Foundation for funding the CWELC participant meetings to convene researchers, policymakers, and practitioners from the three states.