Never Judge a Book by Its Cover:
Building an Evidence Base on (Open and Closed) Instructional Materials

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WHAT IS THIS SESSION ALL ABOUT?
Each year, schools and districts spend roughly $12 billion on textbooks and other instructional materials. How much do we know about whether these large investments pay off for students? Panelists in this moderated discussion will examine the research agenda on instructional materials, including efforts to understand content alignment, adoption and use, and, ultimately, the impact of specific materials on students’ academic performance. Participants will explore how these questions are evolving in the age of the Common Core, amidst the growth of open educational resources (OER). This session will consider how emerging evidence can inform decisions by key stakeholders, including the districts who purchase materials and the publishers who create them.

WHAT WILL I LEARN IN THIS SESSION?
Participants will leave the session understanding the different ways that evidence can be used to inform decision-making on instructional materials, as well as the changing landscape and growing use of open instructional materials. Attendees will also get to dig into several of the key challenges in building an evidence base on the use and effect of instructional materials, and identify possible ways that evidence can be used to sway decisions of key stakeholders.

WHO SHOULD ATTEND THIS SESSION?
This session is open to attendees with any interest in implementing and evaluating curricula. This session is appropriate for all participants, even those with no background knowledge on the topic.

HOW SHOULD I PREPARE FOR THIS SESSION?
There is no pre-work for this session.