Opening the Floodgates:
How to Leverage Your Role as ESSA Finally Rolls Out

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WHAT IS THIS SESSION ALL ABOUT?
Are you ready for ESSA implementation? Even before its regulations were stripped, the process of ESSA planning has been catalyzing for some and agonizing for others.

In this session, participants will hear from a district that “bet big” on ESSA. They will share how these plans changed the way they frame their work and navigate their path forward. Attendees will be challenged to identify “guiding principles” and to respond to political and policy challenges in a manner that reflects those principles.

WHAT WILL I LEARN IN THIS SESSION?
In this session participants will be able to reflect on the barriers that could block their use of ESSA to address the needs of their students and families, and identify new pathways where ESSA could facilitate their current (or planned) efforts to advance their students and families.

Attendees will examine a case study of how a district has used the opportunities provided by ESSA to rethink their efforts both within their district and between the district and external stakeholders. Participants will also be challenged to design an accountability system that meets the needs of various organizations and still aligns to their guiding principles and beliefs.

WHO SHOULD ATTEND THIS SESSION?
All levels of employees from LEAs, SEAs, and engaged organizations will benefit from participating in this presentation, particularly those with interest in policymaking.

HOW SHOULD I PREPARE FOR THIS SESSION?
Please complete the following steps, which should take about 10–20 minutes, before the session.

1. Read this brief EdWeek article on Cleveland’s preparation for ESSA’s evidence requirements
2. Review the Cleveland Metropolitan School District policy news updates
3. Bring or review your state’s most recent ESSA implementation plan (if unfamiliar)