



Cross-State High School Collaborative ESSA Redesign Overview and First Steps

*Using ESSA to Redesign
High Schools to
Support Their
Communities in the
21st Century*

Using ESSA to Create High Schools that Help Communities Thrive in the 21st Century



Who is Involved

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- Seven states- MA, NY, OH, IL, MS, LA, and NM
- Everyone Graduates Center, Johns Hopkins University-led by Robert Balfanz
- CCSSO and Civic Enterprise
- More partners to follow



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Why We Are Working Together



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Remaining Low Performing High Schools- Are Challenging To Improve

Economically and Socially Isolated Communities, Schools & Students

- The **Low Performing high schools that remain and will be identified as in need of comprehensive improvement through ESSA** have some **things in common**:
 - **Located in** economically and socially challenged locales-30% in large cities, but most in inner-ring suburbs, struggling towns, and rural area
 - **Intense** concentrations of **student need**
 - **Limited organic capacity** to respond to that need and bring additional resources into their schools
 - **Have been constantly “reforming” but not succeeding**, notwithstanding pressure
 - **Proud History** -- many were and remain the center of their community with notable local alumni



A New Approach is Needed

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- Hopeful, positive, future orientated frame-designing a school for the 21st century rather than being seen as failed school in need of reform
- Goal is not a high school diploma but strong pathways through high school to post-secondary and adult success for all students
- Evidence-based, but locally customized/orientated-not one way for all
- Address stress and scarcity through capacity building and technical assistance partners tightly aligned to community re-design vision and goals
- Break social isolation via cross-state networks of schools facing similar challenges, provide opportunity for school leaders to travel to see other possibilities
- In high needs communities make re-designed high school the center of community economic development and social integration efforts



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Our Odds of Success Will Increase If We Work and Learn Together

We will not all have to invent the same wheel alone



Key Features of a Cross-State Effort

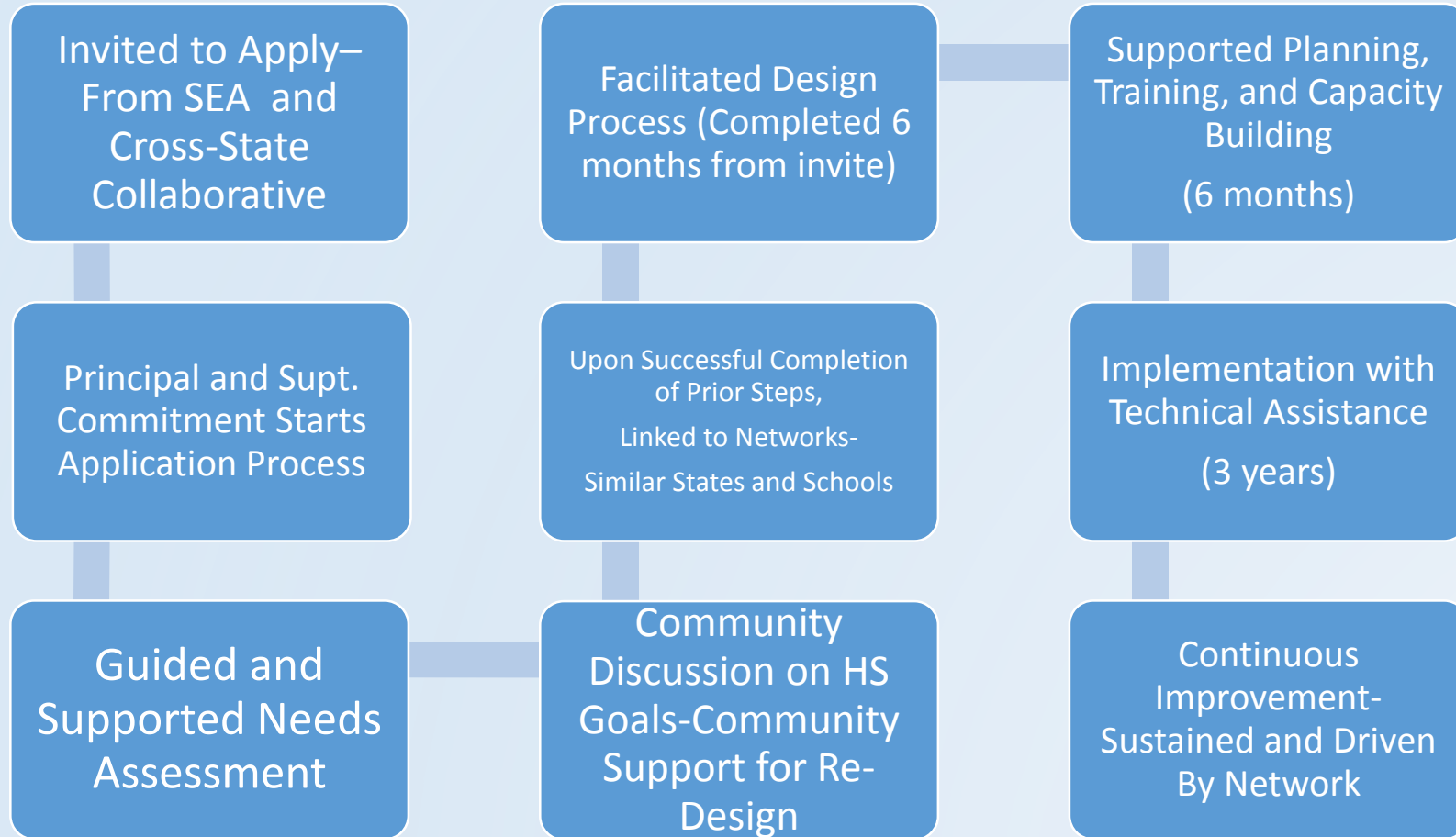
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- School, District Opt-In, strong community participation in redesign, process customized to state's ESSA plan
- Common needs assessment tool and process used to align school's needs & redesign vision with appropriate cross-state school improvement network supported by technical assistance and capacity building partners
- Build a foundation for innovation on evidence-based reforms to the common challenges low-performing high schools face – use to create standards of practice
- Use common set of on-track indicators for improvement metrics
- Use ESSA process for alignment among state, district, & school, 7% Title I to fund
- Everyone Graduates Center at JHU, CCSSO, and Civic Enterprises provide organizational support, technical assistance, recruit partners, and capture, share and spread learnings



How it Might Work-Sequence of Activities for High Schools in Need of Comprehensive Improvement under ESSA

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How Will We Work Together-Big Picture

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- Develop a common approach and process, that is customizable by each state to address high schools identified as in need of comprehensive improvement under ESSA
- Have Everyone Graduates Center and other partners provide support for the general process and to individual states in building capacity to implement the approach and process and to provide implementation support in carrying it out.
- Have Everyone Graduates Center, CCSSO, and Civic Enterprise provide support in organizing cross-state learning opportunities around evidence based reform for high schools and knowledge sharing across states



How We Will Work Together to Build the Approach June to Jan.

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- Structured on-going dialogue across the seven participating states around key issues via webinars, conference calls etc. which leads to core set of common approaches and process.
- Individual state consultations with EGC and CCSSO
- Learning Conference around evidence based and innovative reforms for high schools-Fall 2017
- Knowledge building supports-i.e. synthesis of evidence and experience base on key topics requested by states provided by EGC
- Pilot materials with/learn from early starting states
- Identify existing state and cross-state networks high school identified in need of comprehensive reform could join, and the pool of technical assistance partners who could support them



Next Steps- Focus on Key Building Blocks

- A customized needs assessment for high needs high schools
- Explanatory materials for states, districts, and schools
- Community outreach process and tools
- Identifying networks and technical assistance providers
- Sequence of steps needed to reach agreement on common cross-state process and approach to use ESSA to create high schools that help communities thrive in 21st century.

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