As Students Return to School ... focusing on mental health concerns

As Students Return to School ...

CDC does a good job in stressing how to mitigate the spread of COVID-19 at school (see below).*

Clearly mitigating the spread of COVID-19 is a fundamental concern for schools.

> ***AND so is a school's focus on mental health and other factors that affect learning and teaching.***

As schools move forward, our Center continues to stress strategies for mental health concerns, addressing barriers to learning and teaching, and reengaging disconnected students.

In last April's Quarterly ejournal (http://smhp.psych.ucla.edu/news.htm), the focus was on *Looking Ahead to When Schools Re-open*

   Contents:
       >Plan Ahead to Support the Transition-back of Students, Families, and Staff
       >Re-opening Schools with a Sense of Exciting Renewal: Generating Hope
       >Re-engaging the Disconnected in Instructional Activity
       >Addressing Grief and Loss
In June, the contents included:
       >Schools Re-opening: Safety Plus Enhancing Equity of Opportunity and Social Justice
       >The Role of Schools in Promoting Whole Child Development and Learning

Our monthly ENEWS (http://smhp.psych.ucla.edu/enews.htm) and the weekly Community of practice School Practitioner (http://smhp.psych.ucla.edu/practitioner.htm) regularly share information, ideas, resources, lessons learned, etc. about supporting students/families/community that are of relevance in this time of crisis. See the many editions sent out since last March.

Finally, we stress that, as schools reopen, it will be important (and it is an opportunity) to personalize instruction and start a process for transforming student/learning supports. To these ends, we are providing online in depth resources to guide planning, including the following three free books:

        >Improving School Improvement
        >Addressing Barriers to Learning: In the Classroom and Schoolwide
        >Embedding Mental Health as Schools Change
            All three of these resources can be accessed at no cost at
            http://smhp.psych.ucla.edu/improving_school_improvement.html

JUST RELEASED IN LATE NOVEMBER
      We were invited by the Policy Analysis for California Education (PACE) to prepare the following policy brief: *Restructuring California Schools to Address Barriers to Learning and Teaching in the COVID 19 Context and Beyond*
       https://edpolicyinca.org/publications/restructuring-california-schools-address-barriers-learning-and-teaching-covid-19?utm_source=PACE+All&utm_campaign=61b8aabde4-EMAIL_CAMPAIGN_2020_11_17_07_36_COPY_05&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_9f1af6b121-61b8aabde4-522725185
           The content, of course, is applicable to other states

Please share this information. And as always, we ask that you share with us whatever you think others might find relevant.   Send to Ltaylor@ucla.edu

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*CDC has just issued the following new resources to help schools assess hazards and implement mitigation strategies to reduce the spread of COVID-19 in schools.
>The K-12 Schools COVID-19 Mitigation Toolkit
https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/FINAL-0321420_B_K-12_Mitigation_Toolkit508.pdf
>The Getting Schools Ready for In-Person Learning: How to Plan and Execute a COVID-19 Mitigation
Walkthrough https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/321420-Walkthrough.pdf
>Additional CDC guidance and tools are available on the Schools and Child Care Programs webpage
https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/k-12-staff.html