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From the Center for MH & Student/Learning Supports at UCLA

## **Too Many Students Are Not Doing Well: What Schools Need to Do to Help Them Succeed This Year**

***It's not just about making up for lost instructional time;  
it's also about directly addressing learning, behavior, and emotional problems.***

Each day, schools are confronted with the increased numbers of students experiencing a variety of factors that interfere with efforts to engage and reengage them productively in instruction. By now, it's obvious that many students have yet to make a good adjustment to this school year; too many remain disconnected from instruction; too many are absent.

Unfortunately, insufficient attention is being paid to *directly* addressing these matters. Essential student/learning supports have long been and continue to be marginalized in school improvement policy and practice. And the way MTSS, PBIS, and Community Schools are being adopted, and the way relief funds are being used to enhance mental health services for students tend to perpetuate approaches that are too limited to effectively deal with the multifaceted and complex problems schools are experiencing.

This is a critical time for schools to

- rethink how they are addressing barriers to learning and teaching
- improve their approach to reengaging disconnected students and their families.

For a perspective on the need to transform student and learning supports, see <http://smhp.psych.ucla.edu/newinitiative.html>

Because such a transformation entails fundamental systemic changes, we have prepared and are circulating the following free books:

>*Improving School Improvement*

>*Addressing Barriers to Learning: In the Classroom and Schoolwide*

>*Embedding Mental Health as Schools Change*

all three can be accessed at [http://smhp.psych.ucla.edu/improving\\_school\\_improvement.html](http://smhp.psych.ucla.edu/improving_school_improvement.html)

Also see

*Restructuring California Schools to Address Barriers to Learning and Teaching in the COVID 19 Context and Beyond* (The content, of course, is applicable to other states.)

[https://edpolicyinca.org/sites/default/files/2020-11/pb\\_adelman\\_nov2020.pdf](https://edpolicyinca.org/sites/default/files/2020-11/pb_adelman_nov2020.pdf)

Note: We also offer free TA and coaching for those who are moving toward transforming student/learning supports - see <http://smhp.psych.ucla.edu/pdfdocs/coach.pdf>

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We don't have email addresses for all who we hope will read this, so please share this with your colleagues.

And as always, we ask that you share with us whatever you think others might find relevant. Send to [Ltaylor@ucla.edu](mailto:Ltaylor@ucla.edu)

Best wishes, be well,

Howard & Linda

Howard Adelman, Ph.D.  
Professor of Psychology & Center Co director

Linda Taylor, Ph.D.  
Center Co director

Dept. of Psychology, UCLA

Emails: [adelman@psych.ucla.edu](mailto:adelman@psych.ucla.edu) [Ltaylor@ucla.edu](mailto:Ltaylor@ucla.edu)

Website: <http://smhp.psych.ucla.edu/>

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