

School Improvement: Who's Mapping and Analyzing Student & Learning Supports?

By now many plans for improving instruction have been made for next year.

Has the same effort been put into planning ways to enhance student and learning supports?

The need is clear. Current programs and services are fragmented. Some administrators indicate that as much as 25% of their budgets is expended on working with students who manifest learning, behavior, and emotional problems. It is time to weave these resources into a unified cost-effective system and then use the next few years to evolve the system.

The first step at state, district, and school levels is to map and analyze all resources being used to address barriers to learning and teaching and re engage disconnected students.

Mapping and analyses of what's in use provides a basis for identifying what is and isn't cost effective, where redundancies have arisen, and what critical gaps exist. This information enables system building through redesign and by re-deploying available resources. Moreover, enhanced intervention effectiveness and economies of scale can be achieved by collaborative system-building across several schools (e.g., a high school and its feeders) and weaving together school and community resources.

Making It Happen

(1) Establish a work group to map and analyze all resources currently being used to provide supports to enhance equity of opportunity for student success at school (e.g., efforts to address learning and behavior problems in classrooms and through home and community involvement, supports for transitions, crisis response and prevention, personalized student and family assistance).

(2) Provide the work group with guidance for carrying out the task. (See, for example, the mapping and analysis tool and list of six steps designed to guide the process online at <http://smhp.psych.ucla.edu/summit2002/tool%20mapping%20current%20status.pdf>)

Want more information about mapping and analyzing student and learning supports? Just send an email to adelman@psych.ucla.edu or Ltaylor@ucla.edu .

*For more information on the 2015 National Initiative for Transforming Student and Learning Supports, see <http://smhp.psych.ucla.edu/newinitiative.html> .

Equity of opportunity is fundamental to enabling civil rights; transforming student and learning supports is fundamental to enabling equity of opportunity and promoting whole child development.