

From the Center at UCLA



2015 National Initiative
for Transforming Student
and Learning Supports

***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.***

**About the Senate's Full Committee Hearing on
Fixing No Child Left Behind: Supporting Teachers and School Leaders Tues., Jan. 27 2015**
<http://www.help.senate.gov/hearings/hearing/?id=501f2541-5056-a032-5289-c10bc632ec00>

Congressional hearings are underway for the ESEA Reauthorization. Tuesday's discussions were quite pointed, with some major controversies underscored.

Unfortunately, the statements made at the hearing were highly predictable and more enlightening from the perspective of *what generally was not said* about supporting teachers and school leaders than what was discussed. With one exception, the main picture presented continues to be that teachers can do it alone.

Does anyone really believe that teachers can do it alone in situations where many students are encountering significant barriers to learning and teaching and where many students have become disengaged from school instruction? (See *Teachers Can't Do it Alone!* -- <http://smhp.psych.ucla.edu/pdfdocs/alone.pdf> .)

A meaningful discussion of supporting teachers and school leaders must no longer ignore the need for schools to play a transformed role in directly addressing barriers to learning and teaching and re-engaging disconnected students. Clearly, teachers need their colleagues who provide student and learning supports and they need such supports to be transformed into a unified, comprehensive, and equitable system. (See *Transforming Student and Learning Supports: Trailblazing Initiatives!* <http://smhp.psych.ucla.edu/pdfdocs/newsletter/summer14.pdf> .)

Let us know what your thoughts are about all this so that we can share them in ways that perhaps can help end the marginalization of efforts to transform student and learning supports. Send to Ltaylor@ucla.edu or adelman@psych.ucla.edu.

Reminder: See information about the *2015 National Initiative for Transforming Student and Learning Supports* at <http://smhp.psych.ucla.edu/newinitiative.html>

The new, free online book entitled: *Transforming Student and Learning Supports: Developing a Unified, Comprehensive, and Equitable System* can be easily accessed at <http://smhp.psych.ucla.edu/pdfdocs/book/book.pdf> . (The chapters provide protocol frameworks and many specifics for a systemic learning supports component to replace the existing marginalized and fragmented set of student and learning supports in districts and schools. The work also stresses that transformation can be done by redeploying existing resources and garnering economies of scale.)