
Guide to Enhance School Improvement Plans Related to Three Critical Facets for Improving How Schools Address Learning and Behavior Problems

Most school improvement plans need to be embellished with respect to developing a unified and comprehensive system for more effectively preventing and correcting learning and behavior problems.

Below are three critical questions for planners to consider at all system levels to ensure schools are more effective in *addressing barriers to learning and teaching and re-engaging disconnected students*. The answers to these questions bear directly on student achievement, dropout reduction, and teacher retention.

(1) Does the plan delineate *a cohesive and extensive system of student and learning supports*? That is, does the plan outline a unified and comprehensive framework for addressing barriers to learning and teaching and re-engaging disconnected students in classrooms and schoolwide?

(2) Does the plan outline how to *rework the operational infrastructure to guide development of a unified and comprehensive system of student and learning supports* over several years?

(3) Have the *capacity building implications* of developing such a system been addressed (e.g., weaving together and redeploying resources, staff development)?

Here are some resources to aid in planning to address these matters:

(1) Delineating a cohesive and extensive system of student and learning supports

>See brief description of the prototype developed by our Center – *Toward Next Steps in School Improvement: Addressing Barriers to Learning and Teaching* – <http://smhp.psych.ucla.edu/pdfdocs/systemic/towardnextstep.pdf>

>See design for a *Comprehensive Learning Supports System* as adapted by the Louisiana Department of Education at <http://www.louisianaschools.net/lde/uploads/15044.pdf> .

>See the design for a *Comprehensive System of Learning Supports* as adapted by the Gainesville City Schools (GA) and the summary of the case study on the district's work developed by the Education Development Center (EDC) – <http://smhp.psych.ucla.edu/aasa/aasagainesville.pdf>

>See the handbook developed for our Center's collaboration with Scholastic – <http://smhp.psych.ucla.edu/rebuild/rebuildingtoc.htm> and the online leadership institute modules – <http://rebuildingforlearning.scholastic.com/>

>See *brochures on their systems from various districts and state departments* – <http://smhp.psych.ucla.edu/toolkit1a.htm>

(2) *Planning to rework operational infrastructure for developing a unified and comprehensive system of student and learning supports*

>See prototypes outlined in *A Tool for Mapping & Analyzing Current Infrastructure (Infrastructure: Is What We Have What We Need?)* –
<http://smhp.psych.ucla.edu/summit2002/tool%20infrastructure.pdf>

>See “*Not Another Team!*” *School Improvement Infrastructure Viewed through the Lens of Addressing Barriers to Learning and Teaching* –
<http://smhp.psych.ucla.edu/pdfdocs/Team.pdf>

(3) *Planning for capacity building for developing a cohesive and extensive system of student and learning supports*

>See *Funding Stream Integration to Promote Development and Sustainability of a Comprehensive System of Learning Supports* –
<http://smhp.psych.ucla.edu/pdfdocs/fundingstream.pdf>

The Louisiana Department of Education has developed a manual and tools to assist local education agencies in understanding how to integrate multiple funding sources to accomplish efforts such as the development of the state’s design for a Comprehensive Learning System. The Louisiana SEA is one of those that is pioneering development of a comprehensive system of learning supports. (See their design at <http://www.louisianaschools.net/lde/uploads/15044.pdf> .)

>See *Establishing a Comprehensive System of Learning Supports at a School: Seven Steps for Principals and Their Staff* –
<http://smhp.psych.ucla.edu/pdfdocs/7steps.pdf>

For more on all these matters:

>See toolkit *Rebuilding Student Supports into a Comprehensive System for Addressing Barriers to Learning and Teaching* –
<http://smhp.psych.ucla.edu/summit2002/resourceaids.htm>

ALSO: If you have anything you can share about how any of this is being included in school improvement planning in your locale, please send info to us so we can let others know. Contact Ltaylor@ucla.edu



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