Moving Beyond the Concept of Integrated Student Supports

*The real difficulty in changing the course of any enterprise lies not
in developing new ideas but in escaping old ones.*

John Maynard Keynes

Here are six old ideas that need to be escaped if schools are to transform how they ensure students have an equal opportunity to succeed at school and beyond.

(1) Escape the idea that effective school improvement can be accomplished without ending the continuing marginalization of efforts to address barriers to student learning in school improvement policy and practice.

(2) Escape the idea that addressing barriers for the many students in need can be accomplished with one-on-one direct services and an emphasis on wrap-around services; much greater attention must be given to classroom and school-wide interventions that can reduce the need for such services.

(3) Escape the idea that improving student and learning supports mainly involves enhancing coordination of interventions and integrating student services; the focus must be on transforming the enterprise into a unified and comprehensive system that is fully integrated into school improvement policy and practice.

(4) Escape the idea that adopting a continuum of interventions is a sufficient framework for transforming current student/learning support services; learning supports also have a content focus.

(5) Escape the idea that co-locating community resources on school campuses is the same as systematically integrating community resources to fill critical intervention gaps at schools and enhance community engagement.

(6) Escape the idea that development of a system that transforms and sustains how schools address barriers to student learning can be accomplished without a well developed strategic plan for systemic change and by personnel who have the capacity to effect the changes.

For a better understanding of the above points, see

>*What Is a Unified and Comprehensive System of Learning Supports?*
  http://smhp.psych.ucla.edu/pdfdocs/whatis.pdf

>*Bringing New Prototypes into Practice: Dissemination, Implementation, and
  Facilitating Transformation* http://smhp.psych.ucla.edu/pdfdocs/implrep3.pdf