

## **To: District and State Collaborative Network for Developing Comprehensive Systems for Learning Support**

From Howard Adelman & Linda Taylor

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**Re: *School Improvement Planning***

Planning for next year is underway. We are thinking about sending the following guide to all those on our email lists (over 50,000 including superintendents, principals, school staff, etc.). *Before we do so, it would be invaluable to have feedback from the collaborative networks' participants.*

Please look the following over and let us know whether it seems like something you would want to put into the hands of planners. How could it be improved?

### **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:**

(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/1de/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/toolkitla.htm>

## (2) Planning to rework operational infrastructure

>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

>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: Do you have anything you can share about how any of this is being included in school improvement planning in your locale?**