

Relaunching Students & Learning Supports

As the new school year gets underway, the need to address a variety of barriers to learning and teaching becomes increasingly pressing. And, once again, it becomes evident that the traditional ways of using student and learning supports can't adequately meet the scope of the needs.

Those seeking substantive school improvement must move quickly to "relaunch" student and learning supports in order to start moving toward a unified, comprehensive, and equitable system.

Making it Happen

- (1) Work with the leadership of student and learning supports to generate the *Relaunch Plan*. Highlight the pressing challenges that need to be addressed this year and outline a strategic plan for actions at all levels (i.e., school, feeder pattern/family of schools, district).*
- (2) Use available data to show:
 - (a) the imperative for and value of student and learning supports
 - (b) the increasing value of moving toward unified, comprehensive, and equitable system.
- (3) Use time with the Superintendent's cabinet, at the Principals meeting, with key staff leaders, and with the board of education to do a brief presentation on *Current Status and the Relaunch Plan*.
- (4) Ensure there is policy commitment for what has been proposed.
- (5) Arrange for a series of kick-off/showcasing announcements and presentations to all school personnel and to community collaborators and stakeholders (e.g., bulletin/memo/letter announcements from the board/superintendent/principals; leadership presentations). Be sure to include presentations at the teachers meetings that feature the learning support staff at that school/feeder pattern.

**Let us know if you think we can help as you move forward to strengthen learning supports.
Contact Ltaylor@ucla.edu**

* For more details and for resource aids, see the Center's Guidance Notes on *Relaunching Student and Learning Supports* <http://smhp.psych.ucla.edu/pdfdocs/relaunch.pdf>

***About the 2015 National Initiative for Transforming Student & Learning Supports**

As a key component in school improvement and renewal, the Center stresses the imperative of transforming student and learning supports. Such a transformation is seen as essential in addressing barriers to learning and teaching and re-engaging disconnected students and families. The emphasis is on unifying student and learning supports and then over a period of several years weaving school and community resources together to develop a comprehensive system of supports that enhances equity of opportunity for all students to succeed at school and beyond. For more on this, see <http://smhp.psych.ucla.edu/pdfdocs/book/book.pdf> .

*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.*

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Please forward this to a few colleagues you think might be interested.

**For those who have been forwarded this and want to be part of the ongoing exchanges,
send an email to ltaylor@ucla.edu .**

Looking forward to hearing from you.