



National Initiative: New Directions for Student Support*

To: Network for the National Initiative: New Directions for Student Support

October, 2006: Brief Update on Status and Opportunities

(Full information online at: <http://smhp.psych.ucla.edu/summit2002/ndannouncement.htm>)

WHERE'S IT HAPPENING?

We have been updating the resource *Where's It Happening? Examples of New Directions for Student Support & Lessons Learned* –

<http://smhp.psych.ucla.edu/summit2002/wheresithappening.htm>

Contains descriptions of trailblazing and pioneering efforts at school, district, state, and national levels. Includes pilots that were not sustained and early versions of major initiatives that continue to evolve.

If you have been involved in developing a comprehensive New Directions for Student Support approach, please send us the information so that we can include it. (Contact: ltaylor@ucla.edu)

From Texas:

The following report comes from colleagues in Texas who have been taking a leadership role in advancing new directions for student support. This was the reaction to their latest presentation:

- We were in the first breakout session slot on the first day of the conference--9:00-10:15.
- The room was set up for 210--there was standing room only!
- By a show of hands, the vast majority of the attendees were board members.
- The response was overwhelming. The people were so interested, wanted to know more, signed up to receive email copies of the presentation and wrote notes asking for other information.
- One board member said that the New Directions presentation was different because all the other breakout sessions were dealing with curriculum and other academic issues. He spoke into the microphone to say that this was information he was so happy to receive and he would be talking to his superintendent about it.
- I think we made some powerful inroads today."

Latest Summits & Leadership Institutes

>>>*National Leadership Institute* – “Call to Action...Student Support Staff: Moving in New Directions through School Improvement.” In July in DC, Teams from major associations and education agencies explored how those in leadership positions across the country can mobilize school support staff to engage productively in school improvement planning and decision making. Related to this, see the lead article in the Center’s summer newsletter – “a call to action . . .School Improvement: Where’s Student Support?” access online at – <http://smhp.psych.ucla.edu/pdfdocs/Newsletter/summer06.pdf>

>>>*Connecticut* – Leadership Institute held in August as a follow up their Summit.

>>>*New Britain, CT school district* – Leadership Institute conducted in August.

>>>*Washington State*-- Statewide summit held in September. It was oversubscribed and local, regional, and the state’s education department were well represented. As always, the summit report can be accessed online.

>>>*Iowa* – Leadership Institutes for two Area Education Agencies. This training series for those involved in the implementation of the state’s system of learning supports begins in mid-October.

In the Planning Stages

- >>>Leadership Institute for Hawaii
- >>>Large Urban Center Summits

Let’s us hear where else we should be considering.
(contact: ltaylor@ucla.edu)

This national initiative is hosted and facilitated by the Center for Mental Health in Schools. The Center is co-directed by Howard Adelman and Linda Taylor and operates under the auspices of the School Mental Health Project, Dept. of Psychology, UCLA,

Support comes in part from the Office of Adolescent Health, Maternal and Child Health Bureau (Title V, Social Security Act), Health Resources and Services Administration (Project #U45 MC 00175), U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

FOCUS ON THE REAUTHORIZATION OF THE NO CHILD LEFT BEHIND ACT

Feedback continues to arrive about the Center's report: *For Consideration in Reauthorizing the No Child Left Behind Act . . . Promoting a Systematic Focus on Learning Supports to Address Barriers to Learning and Teaching*

<http://smhp.psych.ucla.edu/pdfdocs/PromotingaSystematicFocus.pdf>

A process has been initiated to gather proposed changes to address barriers to learning (including psychosocial and mental health concerns). Initial sharing has stimulated discussion and other info. A synthesis and analysis are underway, with a view to facilitating an integrated and cohesive set of proposed changes.

Please let us know any information you have about proposed changes. And, send us any ideas about how the Center can help ensure the reauthorization includes an enhanced emphasis on ways for districts to increase effectiveness in addressing many of the factors that interfere with succeeding at school.

READY TO MOVE FORWARD?

If you are associated with a district that is ready to move forward and want to explore ways we might be able to help, contact Ltaylor@ucla.edu

Also, remember that the Center continues to provide free and ready online access to a range of documents to support moving in new directions and a variety of resources for enhancing learning supports. (See appended list.)

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As you can tell, efforts to move in new directions continue to burgeon.

As always, we value your input on how to maximize the initiative's impact, including info on upcoming events where there could be an opportunity to engage decision makers in exploring New Directions.

We look forward to hearing from you and to continuing to work with you in the best interests of young people, their families, and their schools.

Respectfully submitted,
Howard Adelman and Linda Taylor

Don't Forget About the Available Online Resource Aids

The online tool kit and other resources are meant to provide free and easily accessed aids. Go to the Center's website – <http://smhp.psych.ucla.edu/summit2002/resourceaids.htm>

For example, as an additional response to the frequently asked question about costs, the Center has added a brief response – see – *What will it Cost? - No New Dollars!*

(For this document's URL and for other examples of what's available see the Appended List)

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APPENDIX

Examples of Resources for Creating Readiness and Building Capacity

(1) **Making the Case** – Here's a few more brief documents to help create readiness:

- > *Talking Points - Five Frequently Asked Questions About:
Why Address What's Missing in School Improvement Planning?*
<http://smhp.psych.ucla.edu/summit2002/q&aschoolimprove.pdf>
- > *What will it Cost? - No New Dollars!*
<http://smhp.psych.ucla.edu/summit2002/whatwillitcost.pdf>
- > *Costs of Not Addressing Barriers to Learning*
<http://smhp.psych.ucla.edu/pdfdocs/costs.pdf>
- > *Data on the Plateau or Leveling Off Effect of Achievement Test Scores*
<http://smhp.psych.ucla.edu/pdfdocs/plateau.pdf>
- > *Data Related to the Need for New Directions for School Improvement*
<http://smhp.psych.ucla.edu/pdfdocs/data.pdf>

(2) **Building the Work into School Improvement Planning Guides** – See:

- > *School Improvement Planning: What's Missing?*
<http://smhp.psych.ucla.edu/whatsmissing.htm>
- > *Addressing What's Missing in School Improvement Planning: Expanding Standards and Accountability to Encompass an Enabling or Learning Supports Component*
<http://smhp.psych.ucla.edu/pdfdocs/enabling/standards.pdf>
- > *Designing Schoolwide Programs in Title I Schools: Using the Non-Regulatory Guidance in
Ways that Address Barriers to Learning and Teaching*
<http://smhp.psych.ucla.edu/pdfdocs/briefs/DOEGuidance.pdf>

(3) **Stressing the need for a Unifying Framework.** See:

- > *Another Initiative? Where Does it Fit? A Unifying Framework and an Integrated Infrastructure for Schools to Address Barriers to Learning and Promote Healthy Development*
<http://smhp.psych.ucla.edu/pdfdocs/infrastructure/anotherinitiative-exec.pdf>
- > *a call to action . . . School Improvement: Where's Student Support?*
<http://smhp.psych.ucla.edu/pdfdocs/Newsletter/summer06.pdf>

Corwin Publications on New Directions written by the Center's Co-directors:

>>> *The School Leader's Guide to Student Learning Supports: New Directions for Addressing Barriers to Learning* – <http://www.corwinpress.com/book.aspx?pid=11343>

>>> *The Implementation Guide to Student Learning Supports: New Directions for Addressing Barriers to Learning* – <http://www.corwinpress.com/book.aspx?pid=11371>

“Is it Possible to Fix America’s Schools?”

"I heard about this spiritualist who claimed that she could put me in touch with the other world, the dear departed. And I thought, who would I really like to talk to? And I decided, John Dewey. So I approached this person, and put my money down, and sure enough, she put me in touch with John Dewey. I asked him the question that is most on my mind, "Is it possible, really, to fix America's schools?" Dewey said, "Yes. Yes. There are two ways you can do it. You can do it the miraculous way, or you can do it the natural way." And I said, "What is the natural way?" He said, "Well, the natural way would be if a band of angels descended from heaven and scattered across the landscape, and went into every school in the land, and waved their hands and fixed the schools." I said, "My God, what's the miraculous way?" And Dewey said, "The miraculous way would be if the people did it themselves."

Ron Wolk (journalist/founder of Education Week)

***INITIATIVE FOR NEW DIRECTIONS FOR STUDENT SUPPORT**

The *National Initiative: New Directions for Student Support* stresses that new directions means rethinking *all* support programs, resources, and personnel. Besides traditional support staff, learning support is provided by compensatory education personnel (e.g., Title I staff), resource teachers who focus on prereferral interventions, and personnel who provide a variety of school-wide programs (e.g., after school, safe and drug free school programs). New Directions stem from rethinking how *all* these resources are used.

The initiative's growing impact is seen in the involvement of increasing numbers of states and localities and initiative co-sponsors. The trend has been to look to the National Initiative for support in mobilizing active networks. The staff at the UCLA Center provides facilitative support and leadership. Each month the Center generates outreach mailings in all states and is receiving a steady flow of requests for more information and assistance from state and local education agencies and boards of education seeking to move in new directions. Listservs have been established to facilitate communications. Special meetings/trainings are convened. Legislative action has been stimulated. Corwin Press recently published two books that support the initiative, and these may be the beginning of a New Directions series.

Stakeholders in each state, of course, differ in how they relate to and support the National Initiative and pursue work in their own states and localities. What is common across venues is that increasing numbers of stakeholders want to go in new directions through making systemic changes to develop comprehensive approaches. And, what is becoming clearer is that opportunities to move forward occur every time school improvement is an agenda item.