

UPDATE #2 - California Initiative New Directions for Student Support - 6/21/04

Hope you all have had a successful school year and can use some of the upcoming summer to restore your energy and enthusiasm for the important work at hand.

Here is a brief update on the work to date and an invitation for you to participate as the work moves forward.

As you know, the **CA Steering Group for New Directions for Student Support** endorsed the creation of two workgroups(a) one focused on information sharing and (b) the other on identifying school districts that are ready to move and enhancing decision maker interest in New Directions for Student Support. These are up and running (and invite anyone to join in).

A. Information Sharing. On 6/2/04 we sent an email invitation to all who attended or were interested in attending the February, 2003, California Summit on New Directions for Student Support to join in **launching a campaign to inform a broad range of partners about the imperative for new directions**. There were 28 responses. We followed up by asking this group whether they would be attending any conference, workshops, meetings over the next months where they could share information on New Directions for Students Support. Here are the venues at which they plan to share information

- >Board of Directors meeting for the California School Boards Association
- >Conditions of Children Task Form and Curriculum Conference
- >California Association of School Psychologists Board Meeting, Board Retreat, and Summer Institute
- >California Pupil Services Coalition Meetings
- >California School Psychology Foundation Fundraiser
- >Legislative Leadership Days, Sacramento
- >Organizational Leadership & School/Community Collaboration Course
- >Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration Conference
- >Single District SELPA's meeting
- >Presentation to the Principals in our District
- >California School Resource Officers Conference
- >Higher Education Strategic Planning Meeting
- >Friday Night Live Partnership Meeting
- >Steering Committee of School Social Work Community
- >California Association for School Counselors
- >National Association of State School Nurse Consultants
- >National Association of School Nurses

Will you be attending any meetings where you can share information on the California New Directions for Student Support Initiative?? Please let us know.

If you want materials to share at meetings you can either download and copy them or we can send you hardcopies (let us know how many you need for distribution and we will send them to you.)

Brief info. material we have developed so far include

>There is a new one page flyer online that you can adapt/share on *New Directions for Student Support* at <http://smhp.psych.ucla.edu/summit2002/flyerjune04.pdf>

>There are also two new documents online relevant to *New Directions for Student Support*. Take a look to see if you can use them in sharing this important work . They are

>>New Directions for Student SupportA Comprehensive Learning Supports System Talking points Q & A document (<http://smhp.psych.ucla.edu/summit2002/q&a.pdf>)

This is designed to respond to the following five basic questions that folks seem to ask related to a new directions initiative.

- 1) Why is a Comprehensive Learning Supports System an imperative?
- 2) What needs to be done to make such a component a reality?
- 3) What does such a component need to look like at a school?

4) What's the research-base for such a component?

5) What will it cost?

>>Brief article that was published in the journal of the National Association of School Boards of Education (NASBE) entitled "So you want higher achievement scores? It's Time to Rethink Learning Supports" <http://smhp.psych.ucla.edu/summit2002/schoolboard.pdf>.

After looking these documents over, let us know whether you think these are good for letting others know about New Directions for Student Support. If you think we need something else, please help by briefly describing what you think might work better.

We are pleased to let you know that a number of the Summit co-sponsors are including an article about the *New Directions for Student Support Initiative* in their newsletters and electronic communications. For example, the California Center for Community School Partnerships has shared the article by posting it on their website as a "What's New" item http://education.ucdavis.edu/cress/ccsp/resources/news/Calif_Center_newsletter.pdf

The California Association of School Psychologist also has put it on their website <http://www.casponline.org/> (NASP has included it in its newsletter to school psychologists across the country.)

If you would like a draft article to adapt for inclusion in your communications networks, please let us know and we will send one to you. (ltaylor@ucla.edu).

B. Based on the input and discussion of the workgroup ***identifying school districts that are ready to move and enhancing decision maker interest in New Directions for Student Support***, we sent all those attending and interested in attending the California Summit the following three question survey

>With respect to where **your district** is in moving toward New Directions for Student Support

1. How interested are key leaders, such as district administrators and board members (e. g., Do they see the need and opportunity to pursue a comprehensive learning support component as a key to ensuring better outcomes for students and for schools)?

- ☐ Not at all interested
- ☐ Somewhat interested
- ☐ Quite interested

(If not at all or just somewhat interested, you might want to share the new online document "*New Directions for Student SupportA Comprehensive Learning Supports SystemQuestions and Answers*" <http://smhp.psych.ucla.edu/summit2002/q&a.pdf>). And, of course, please let us know if there is a way we can aid your efforts -- contact ltaylor@ucla.edu)

2. How ready are **key leaders** to map the range of resources in the district/schools/community for learning support?

- ☐ Not at all ready
- ☐ Somewhat ready
- ☐ Quite ready

(If not at all or just somewhat ready, take a look at "*Resource Mapping and Management to Address Barriers to LearningAn Intervention for Systemic Change*" <http://smhp.psych.ucla.edu/pdfdocs/resourcemapping/resourcemappingandmanagement.pdf>)

3. How ready are **key leaders** to establish an infrastructure at the district/school level for focusing on **New Directions for Student Support** (e.g., resource coordinating teams at a school, resource coordinating councils for a feeder pattern of schools, a learning support office and director at the district office, an effective school-community collaborative, job

descriptions that include participating on resource coordinating teams for support services, special ed, title I personnel, etc.)

You might want to list each under the descriptors below where it best fits.

Not at all ready

Somewhat ready

Quite ready

>>Initial responses have included some indicating quite a bit of optimism, those with less optimism, and others who clearly are not ready for new directions. Ten districts have been identified for us to contact to see if there is a way to help them as they try to move forward.

Here is a sample of comments from initial responders

>"We are moving in this direction in our district. Our KEY leaders are very interested."

>"We are interested in improving the learning environment for children, but the problem is in the details. Before anyone can make a commitment we need an action plan."

>"We are somewhat ready. My problem is that we are transitioning a new person into a key position and this new person will need a little time to settle in."

>"Our district is on stall because we've just hired a new superintendent and are in the process of looking for a new Director of Student Support Services."

>"My district is far from ready on all three issues. Unfortunately there has been a massive turnover of staff at the top and in the middle of leadership in the district, and that is the primary reason for the timing of the initiative to miss our district. However, as opportunities present themselves, I will let you know."

If you haven't responded for your district yet, please let us know where key leaders stand.

We will follow up with each district responding to see what next steps can be taken.

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Let us know of your progress in working on **New Directions for Student Support**. If you want to be more involved in the California Initiative on New Directions for Student Support, let us know.

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