



New Directions for Student Support ... **an Initiative for Connecticut***



*School systems are not responsible for meeting every need of their students.
But, when the need directly affects learning, the school must meet the challenge.*

Despite decades of discussion about ensuring all students have an equal opportunity to succeed at school, reformers have paid little attention to rethinking the way schools provide student supports.

Until now! A national initiative for *New Directions for Student Support* is underway. The goal is to bring student support into the 21st Century by revolutionizing what schools do to address barriers to learning and teaching.

It's an Imperative for

- >>>any school designated as low performing
- >>>closing the achievement gap
- >>>making schools safe

Meeting the Challenges Requires Rethinking ALL Support Programs, Resources, and Personnel

Most people hear the term *student support* and think mainly about pupil service personnel (e.g., school psychologists, counselors, social workers, nurses) and the special services such staff provide. But, schools need and have many more resources they use to meet the challenge of ensuring all students have an equal opportunity to succeed at school.

Besides traditional support staff, learning support is provided by compensatory education personnel (e.g., Title I staff), resource teachers who focus on pre-referral 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.

***Connecticut is one of an increasing number of states that have established a statewide initiative to pursue *New Directions for Student Support*. At the national level, over 30 organizations have signed on so far as co-sponsors of the initiative (see the other side of this announcement). Organizations around the state currently are being encouraged to sign on.**

Interested in exploring any of this further?

- >Go to the homepage of the Center for Mental Health in Schools at UCLA (<http://smhp.psych.ucla.edu>), click on the green button "Summits for New Directions."
- >Contact current members of the state's core advisors for this national initiative (see list on the other side of this announcement)
- >Email smhp@ucla.edu | Ph. Toll free (866) 846-4843 | (310) 825-3634 | Fax: (310) 206-8716

The initiative is sponsored by the national *Center for Mental Health in Schools at UCLA*.*

So far, the growing number of co-sponsors includes:

- C American School Counselors Association
- C American School Health Association
- C Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development
- C California Association of School Psychologists
- C California Center for Community School Partnerships
- C California Department of Education
- C Center for Cooperative Research and Extension Services for Schools
- C Center for Prevention of Youth Violence, Johns Hopkins University
- C Center for School Mental Health Assistance at the University of Maryland at Baltimore
- C Center for Social and Emotional Education
- C Coalition for Cohesive Policy in Addressing Barriers to Development and Learning
- C Coalition for Community Schools
- C Collaborative for Academic, Social, and Emotional Learning
- C Education Development Center
- C Indiana Department of Education
- C Institute for the Study of Students at Risk, University of Maine
- C Johns Hopkins University Graduate Division of Education
- C Minnesota Department of Education
- C National Alliance of Pupil Service Organizations
- C National Association of Pupil Services Administrators
- C National Association of School Nurses
- C National Association of School Psychologists
- C National Association of Secondary School Principals
- C National Association of Social Workers
- C National Association of State Boards of Education
- C National Center for Community Education
- C National Middle School Association
- C Policy Leadership Coalition of Mental Health in Schools
- C Region VII Comprehensive Center
- C School Social Work Association of America
- C Texas Assoc. of Student Assistance Professionals
- C Urban Special Education Leadership Collaborative
- C Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction



Core Advisors for the National Initiative Network in Connecticut include:

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*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 (contact: smhp@ucla.edu). 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 #U93 MC 00175), with co-funding from the Center for Mental Health Services, Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration. Both are agencies of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.