

April 30th Learning Support System Leadership Summit

Major Next Steps for Consideration:

1. Mobilize, engage and effectively communicate with:
VSA, VPA, VSEA, legislators, agencies, families, community, school boards, students, providers of services to disaffected kids, superintendents, teachers, school/community libraries, after school program/recreations, faith communities, elders, higher education, volunteer organizations and national leaders
2. Connect the DOE organizational dots:
 - ✓ Fully articulate the relationship between student support and school improvement
 - ✓ Integrated school health initiatives into student support
 - ✓ Coordinated with Response to Instruction (RtI)
3. Analyze/Explore:
 - ✓ Educational funding (both gen. ed. And categorical) to create greater flexibility
 - ✓ Available data and other measures of success and motivation
 - ✓ Key leverage areas
 - ✓ Opportunities for regional collaboration
 - ✓ Gaps in resources for student support using a comprehensive framework
 - ✓ Connection/cohesion of student support system
 - ✓ Value of mandatory multi-age mentoring
 - ✓ Assessments of student motivation
 - ✓ General education tools/resources to provide a comprehensive view of a student
 - ✓ Caps on education spending
 - ✓ Changes in funding requirements to allow early onset intervention
 - ✓ Taking what we learned today and making it our own
 - ✓ How to modify/amend two evaluative tools, the NEASC and DOE School Quality Standards, to reflect the importance of comprehensive student supports
 - ✓ Management/governance
4. Develop/Define
 - ✓ A common vision of the continuum of supports, emotional development, equity vs. equality
 - ✓ Needs and resource assessments and other ways to map system of support
 - ✓ Assessment of ESS patterns and trends
 - ✓ Student support system linked to improved outcomes for ALL students
 - ✓ State policy that includes social/emotional/behavioral development
 - ✓ Job definitions for student support
 - ✓ More understandable language
 - ✓ Common understanding and agreement about what a learning support system is and does
 - ✓ Clear definition of the problem to be addressed through systems change
 - ✓ A system to hold service delivery professionals accountable for student outcomes
 - ✓ Community partnership coordinating team
 - ✓ More collaboration among schools
 - ✓ Shift from vertical to horizontal decision making
 - ✓ Network of available parent/student/staff mentors
 - ✓ Resource teams to look at resources and infrastructure at school/district/region/state level
 - ✓ More home-school coordinators and roles

5. Specific systems change suggested:

- ✓ Stop inappropriate referrals to special education
- ✓ Improve/change the learning support system
- ✓ Improve community/school/family integration
- ✓ Wrap plan around a school not just kids
- ✓ Greater focus on system issues
- ✓ Funding to match state philosophy

6. Professional development needed:

- ✓ The “why” of behavior instead of etiology of kids
- ✓ Intrinsic motivation
- ✓ Use of assessment to modify instruction
- ✓ Differentiated instruction
- ✓ Parent engagement for hard to engage parents