

The National Initiative is sponsored by the

Center for Mental Health in Schools at UCLA*

and co-sponsored by:

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

*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. Write: Center for Mental Health in Schools, Box 951563, Los Angeles, CA 90095- 1563
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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), an agency of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

It is not enough to say that all children can learn or that no child will be left behind; the work involves . . .



“achieving the vision of an American education system that enables all children to succeed in school, work, and life.”

(From the 2002 mission statement of the Council for Chief State School Officers – CCSSO)

National Initiative:

New Directions for Student Support

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.

Carnegie Task Force on Education

Why New Directions are an Imperative

- Many schools are being designated as low performing
- Increasing accountability demands require demonstrating progress for students who are “economically disadvantaged, from racial and ethnic minority groups, have disabilities, or have limited English proficiency.”
- All schools will be evaluated on criteria designed to identify sites that are “persistently dangerous.”

Meeting the Challenges Requires Rethinking 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 can 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 prereferral interventions, and personnel who provide a variety of school-wide programs (e.g., after school, safe and drug free school programs).

Rethinking how all these resources are used can lead to

- more effective deployment of existing resources (by minimizing fragmentation, counterproductive competition, and policy marginalization)
- reframing student supports as *learning supports* that address barriers to student learning and realigning support staff roles and functions to develop comprehensive, multifaceted, and cohesive approaches
- fully integrating learning support programs and staff into the school improvement agenda at every school
- revamping infrastructures to weave resources together and provide mechanisms for enhancing and evolving how schools address barriers to student learning

What is the National Initiative?

The *National Initiative: New Directions for Student Support* is designed as a proactive, strategic step in ongoing efforts to move essential student learning supports from the margins to a central position in school improvement policy and practice. A national summit was convened on October 28, 2002 in response to widespread interest for mounting such a strategic initiative. This led to regional and then to statewide summits and leadership institutes. The initiative is centered around four fundamental concerns that must be addressed to promote new directions: (1) expanded policy for school improvement, (2) comprehensive intervention frameworks, (3) revamped infrastructure, and (4) systemic change.

For recommendations from the national summit and for a wide range of info and resources related to current activities, see –
<http://smhp.psych.ucla.edu/summit2002/ndannouncement.htm>

Statewide Summits and Leadership Institutes for New Directions for Student Learning Supports

Statewide *summits* bring together 60-70 key education leaders from across a state to clarify new directions for student learning support, build a leadership network, and encourage strategic advocacy and action. Statewide summits are followed by *leadership institutes* as soon as a critical mass of leaders indicate interest in moving forward. Such one day institutes bring together teams from districts and state departments for more in-depth learning and specific action planning.

As part of each summit and leadership institute, current efforts across the country to move in new directions are highlighted. Mutual support networks are being developed to facilitate sharing of effective practices, lessons learned, and data on progress. Technical assistance and training for localities and states are provided.

At an appropriate time, state and national policy maker summits will be organized to encourage widespread adoption of new directions for student learning supports.

Interested?

Contact: Center for Mental Health in Schools, Box 951563,
UCLA, Los Angeles, CA 90095-1563
Ph: (310) 825-3634 | Fax: (310) 206-8716 | Email: smhp@ucla.edu

(Or return the enclosed Response Form)



National Initiative: *New Directions for Student Support*

Because of the urgency stemming from the demands made by the *No Child Left Behind Act*, we have initiated a nationwide initiative for *New Directions for Student Support*. With increasing accountability for student outcomes and dwindling budgets, it is essential to rethink use of existing learning support resources to maximize a school's capability for addressing barriers to student learning.

Enclosed is a brief overview of the need for and the nature and scope of this National Initiative. Please look it over, and let us know your interests related to *New Directions for Student Support*.

We look forward to working with you in the best interests of ensuring all students have an equal opportunity to succeed at school.

Please feel free to share this with your colleagues.

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Summit Initiative Co-Sponsors:

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Response Form

National Initiative: *New Directions for Student Support*

Reminder: Initiative reports and materials can be accessed at <http://smhp.psych.ucla.edu>

- Send me more information about a Regional and/or State Summit in my area.
- Contact me about how I can be involved in developing a New Directions for Student Support summit in my State.
(See state summit guidelines online at <http://smhp.psych.ucla.edu>)
- Send me more information about frameworks and strategies for enhancing learning supports to address barriers to student learning and development.
- I have information about efforts related to new directions for student support. Contact me.
- Keep me informed about the progress of the initiative and send other information about follow-up steps.

Please indicate names and contact information below for anyone else we should tell about all this.

Your Name _____ Title _____
Organization _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____
Phone (____) _____ Fax (____) _____ E-Mail _____

Thanks for completing this form. Return by FAX to (310) 206-8716.

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