



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



*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.

***Texas 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 "New Directions: Student Support Initiative."
- >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

- C American School Counselors Association
- C American School Health Association
- C Association for Super. and Curric. Development
- C CA. Association of School Psychologists
- C CA. Center for Community School Partnerships
- C CA. Department of Education
- C Center for Cooperative Research and Extension Services for Schools
- C Center for Prev. of Youth Viol., Johns Hopkins Univ.
- C Center for School Mental Health Assistance
- 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 Acad., Social, & Emot. Learning
- C Education Development Center
- C IN. Department of Education
- C Johns Hopkins Univ. Graduate Division of Educ.
- C Institute for the Study of Students at Risk, University of Maine
- C MN. Department of Education
- C National Alliance of Pupil Service Organizations
- C National Assoc. of Pupil Services Administrators
- C National Association of School Nurses
- C National Association of School Psychologists
- C National Assoc. of Secondary School Principals
- C National Association of Social Workers
- C National Assoc. of State Boards of Education
- C National Center for Community Education
- C National Middle School Association
- C Policy Leadership Coalition of MH in Schools
- C Region VII Comprehensive Center
- C School Social Work Association of America
- C TX. Assoc. of Student Assistance Professionals
- C Urban Special Educ. Leadership Collaborative
- C WI. Department of Public Instruction

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