

## **Update #1 – Texas New Directions for Student Support Initiative**

### **Listserv now in Operation**

As proposed at the Texas Summit the state listserv for the New Directions for Student Support Initiative is now established. It will be used to provide updates on the work to those who attended the summit and to anyone who expresses interest. (Note: All replies to the listserv email come back to the Center for processing and sharing within the state and with other states working on this initiative.)

The initiative continues to grow. The energy from Texas has been invigorating. And, we are pleased to report that the just held Connecticut statewide summit went exceedingly well and will soon be joining the network of states pursuing initiatives for New Directions for Student Support. Next summits will be for Iowa and New York.

### **Texas Initial Steering Group for the Initiative**

As of now, the Texas New Directions for Student Support Initiative Steering Group includes:

- >Ramon Abarca, Superintendent, Uvalde Consolidated ISD
- >Rosemarie Allen Associate Superintendent, Dallas ISD
- >Kathy Armenta, Associate Clinical Professor, University of Texas School Social Work
- >Sally Arthur, Director Educational Support Services, Humble ISD
- >Carol Bennets, Katy ISD
- >Stephanie Blanck, Special Education Director, Georgetown ISD
- >Nancy Chavkin, Prof./Dir., Richter Institute for School Work Res., Texas State Univ.
- >Wanda Crotty, Special Services, Boerne ISD
- >Jill Darling, Student Assistant Programs Director, Richardson ISD
- >Lana Fry, Region 16 Education Service Center
- >Lupita Garcia, Director Parent/Student Services, Irving ISD
- >Estella Garza, Coordinator, San Antonio ISD
- >Maria (Chris) Garza, Association for the Advancement of Mexican Americans
- >Melvin Getwood, Director External Funding, Port Arthur ISD
- >Evelyn Henry, Director, Houston ISD
- >P. J. Holland, Director of Student Development, McKinney ISD
- >Peggy Hood, Assistant Director Special Education, Humble ISD
- >Linda Meigs, SAIL Coordinator, Georgetown ISD
- >Brenda Melton, Past Pres. American School Counselor Association, San Antonio ISD
- >John Moore, Executive Director, Office of Educational Support Services, Austin ISD
- >Robert Muller, Executive Director Student Services, Killeen ISD
- >Jane Owen, Midwestern State University
- >Debra Rimmer-Mayorga, Interim Asst. Superintendent Student Support Services, Houston ISD
- >Cynthia Schiebel, Director Student Support Services, Eanes ISD
- >Jennifer Scott, Asst. Superintendent for Admin. and Pupil Services, Longview ISD
- >Constance Thompson, Manager Counseling and Guidance, Houston ISD
- >Patricia Weger, Acting Manager, Psychological Services, Houston ISD
- >Brenda Wilson, Director of Secondary Education, Frenship ISD
- >Linda Yater, Assistant Superintendent Student Services, Dallas ISD
- >Rosa Zapata, Director Special Education, Edgewood ISD

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## Next Steps for Texas

At this point, all follow up work is being organized through e-mails. (No traveling to meetings.)

After reading this e-mail, we would like you to respond to these questions:

1. *If you aren't already on the steering group, would you like to join?*

Yes      No

The function of the steering group is to assume ownership of the initiative and commit to championing, leading, and guiding the process in ways that ensure effective systemic change and sustainability. It's first functions include:

- >identifying, establishing, and providing direction to work groups
- >ratifying the "brief" that provides an overview of the need for and general concepts for moving in new directions for student support in Texas
- >supporting, reviewing and, as appropriate, ratifying work group products.

2. *Would you like to be on one of the two work groups the steering group has established:*

The work group process will elicit ideas from each member by email. Then, Center staff will synthesize what has been suggested and send it to all summit participants and interested folks for their feedback and additional ideas.

- >**Work group 1** — Focus is on clarifying the nature and scope of a *social marketing* campaign aimed at specific groups and key leaders (e.g., what to distribute, to who)

This group will work on a brief overview on New Directions for Student Support in Texas and circulate it for widespread feedback. The group will also propose top level meetings (one Steering group member refers to these as "power" meetings), making recommendations

- (a) about who should be invited in terms of
  - >state department leaders
  - >other leaders involved in state-level organizations
  - >leaders at other levels.
- (b) about how and when (e.g., regular meetings of the organization; a series of small group meetings)
- (c) Steering Group members stressed the value of pursuing opportunities to share the information and advocate at high level meetings each member attends and highlight new directions at conferences, etc. If you will let us know about these, we can let others know and also encourage others to present.

At this time these members of the Steering Group have agreed to take the lead this work group:

- >Peggy Hood, Humble ISD
- >Linda Meigs, Georgetown ISD
- >Nancy Chavkin, Texas State University
- >Jill Darling, Richardson ISD

Others have been "nominated," and we will contact them.

**Would you like to work on this social marketing workgroup?**

YES                      NO

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**Work group 2** -- Provide input into a *series of briefs/plans* that provide an overview related to:

>Identify existing state policy that would provide an opportunity to move in New Directions for Student Support; draft policy proposals to share with school boards to address New Directions for Student Support

>Identify strategies for mapping the range of resources in the district/schools/community for prevention, early intervention, treatment to show how a comprehensive learning support continuum can be formed

>Identify key leaders/districts that are reframing existing infrastructures to move in new directions (e.g., including learning supports in school improvement plans and processes, expanding student study teams so they have a broader focus on learning support for prevention and early intervention programs)

>Identify opportunities for system changes that would sustain New Directions for Student Support (budgeting, professional development, capacity building, aligning policies, developing standards and accountability related to this).

Steering group members taking the lead on this are:

- >Jane Owen, Midwestern State University
- >Stephanie Blanc, Georgetown ISD
- >Peggy Hood, Humble ISD
- >Linda Meigs, Georgetown ISD

**Would you like to work on providing input and reviewing the briefs as part of this workgroup?**

**YES**

**NO**

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If you know of any steps that have been taken related to moving in New Directions for Student Support, please let us know in your response to this email or contact [ltaylor@ucla.edu](mailto:ltaylor@ucla.edu)

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Also let us know if you need any technical assistance support from our Center? [ltaylor@ucla.edu](mailto:ltaylor@ucla.edu)

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Any other general comments to help the process along?

Thanks for your continued efforts on this important work.

Howard and Linda

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