Subject: Advancing the Field at this Critical Juncture

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Re: Advancing the Field at this Critical Juncture – see new downloadable resource

At this seminal time in the field's evolution, there is a pressing need for widespread exploration of where we are going and how to get there.

Because of the urgency for moving forward in creating a school environment that promotes mental health and reduces problems, we have just completed a new book-length resource which we are putting online to make it immediately accessible at no cost and with no restrictions on its use.

The volume is entitled:

Mental Health in School & School Improvement: Current Status, Concerns, and New Directions

The URL is: http://smhp.psych.ucla.edu/mhbook/mhbookintro.htm

Note: For convenience in downloading, each section of this book can be accessed separately.

In deciding to by-pass for a short while the publishing barriers of time, purchasing costs, and copyright limitations, we are hoping that this work will find its way to the broadest possible audience.

As you know, engaging a wide range of stakeholders in discussion is an essential step in moving a field forward. Therefore, we hope you will freely forward this announcement and generally share information about the opportunity to download this volume.

Note: For those teaching courses on this topic, the volume provides students with a unique resource in terms of content and the fact that any and all of it can be readily accessed at no cost.

Finally, as always, we encourage you to send us your ideas for moving the field forward.

The volume's contents are:

Part I. Current State of the Art

1. Past as Prologue
Advancing the Field at this Critical Juncture

2. Where the Field is Now

Part II. Some Major Concerns About Pursuing Mental Health in Schools

3. Complex Problems, Limited Solutions

4. Evidence-based Practices: Concerns About Fit and Implementation

5. Labeling, Screening, and Over-pathologizing

6. Overreliance on Social Control Interventions

7. Overcoming Marginalization in School Improvement Policy and Practice

Part III. Advancing the Field: Opportunities and New Directions

8. A Period of Transition and Possible Transformation

9. Expanding School Improvement Policy and Planning

10. Challenges and Opportunities in the Classroom

11. About Behavior Problems, Social and Emotional Learning, & Promotion of Mental Health

12. Mental Health Assistance for Students at School

13. Focusing on the Well-being of School Staff


Part IV. Policy and Systemic Change Considerations

15. New Directions for Policy

16. Using and Extending the Research-base

17. Addressing Systemic Change

Call to Action: Moving Forward

Appendices

A. Leadership at a School Site for an Enabling or Learning Supports Component: Job Descriptions

B. Recommendations for Changes in the ESEA to Move Forward