

An Open Letter to Timothy Knowles President, Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching

We, of course, were pleased to read this week in the Foundation's newsletter your call for a robust, national R&D agenda focused on the *transformation* of schools. Your call specifically notes, the "need to design and establish more rigorous, applied, experiential, and effective models of high school education; develop tools and public policy to help scale and sustain the work, and; build and share knowledge about what works, for whom, and under what conditions."

At this critical time, clearly a transformative agenda for schools is essential. And our Center wants to be supportive.

Our concerns about your call, however, is with the impact of

(1) separating out high school education from what precedes it

and relatedly

(2) whether enough attention will be paid to transforming student and learning supports into a unified, comprehensive, and equitable system for addressing barriers to learning and teaching.

Successful transformation of education requires designing and establishing more rigorous, applied, experiential, and effective *prek-12* models. The separate focus on high schools risks further fragmentation of what must be a cohesive continuum of schooling.

And because there will always be students who manifest learning, behavior, and emotional problems, the models developed cannot continue the long-standing marginalization of efforts to make fundamental changes in the way student and learning supports are conceived and structured.

We hope that some of our work on these matters will be of some help in moving forward.

See, for example:

> *Improving School Improvement* <https://smhp.psych.ucla.edu/pdfdocs/improve.pdf>

> *Addressing Barriers to Learning: In the Classroom and Schoolwide*
<https://smhp.psych.ucla.edu/pdfdocs/barriersbook.pdf>

> *Student/Learning Supports: A Brief Guide for Moving in New Directions*
<https://smhp.psych.ucla.edu/pdfdocs/briefguide.pdf>

> *Implementation Science and School Improvement*
<https://smhp.psych.ucla.edu/pdfdocs/implscience.pdf>

Please let us know the Foundation's thinking about these concerns, and especially about the pressing need to transform student and learning supports.

Best wishes and be well,

Howard & Linda

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