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## About trauma-informed, ACES, SEL, disengaged students, etc. etc.: Increased Concern, Misdirected Action

### Here We Go Again: Increased Concern, Misdirected Action

This week we have seen increasing calls for schools to pursue interventions related to trauma, anxiety, depression, disconnected students and truancy, adverse childhood experiences, social and emotional health, substance abuse, suicide prevention, and other mental health concerns. Clearly, there is a need for schools to play a role in addressing such matters. At the same time, it is essential to avoid magic bullet thinking and buzzword answers, ad hoc and piecemeal approaches, cycling from one concern to another, and interventions that pull resources away from other priority concerns and increase inequities of opportunity for other students.

Given the increasing number of learning, behavior, and emotional problems confronting educators, it is essential that schools avoid pressures to just add another “hot topic” program. Instead, now is the time to start a process for transforming student/learning supports in ways that substantially and substantively address a broad range of barriers to learning and teaching.

Here are three free resources we have developed to provide online in depth aids to guide transformation planning:

>*Improving School Improvement*

>*Addressing Barriers to Learning: In the Classroom and Schoolwide*

>*Embedding Mental Health as Schools Change*

All three can be accessed at [http://smhp.psych.ucla.edu/improving\\_school\\_improvement.html](http://smhp.psych.ucla.edu/improving_school_improvement.html)

And here is a recently released policy analysis prepared for PACE:

### *Restructuring California Schools to Address Barriers to Learning and Teaching in the COVID 19 Context and Beyond*

[https://edpolicyinca.org/publications/restructuring-california-schools-address-barriers-learning-and-teaching-covid-19?utm\\_source=PACE+All&utm\\_campaign=61b8aabde4-EMAIL\\_CAMPAIGN\\_2020\\_11\\_17\\_07\\_36\\_COPY\\_05&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_term=0\\_9f1af6b121-61b8aabde4-522725185](https://edpolicyinca.org/publications/restructuring-california-schools-address-barriers-learning-and-teaching-covid-19?utm_source=PACE+All&utm_campaign=61b8aabde4-EMAIL_CAMPAIGN_2020_11_17_07_36_COPY_05&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_9f1af6b121-61b8aabde4-522725185)

Please share this information with those who may find it helpful.

And if you have any questions or want to share something you think others might find relevant, send them to [Ltaylor@ucla.edu](mailto:Ltaylor@ucla.edu)

Finally, for those moving forward to develop a unified, comprehensive, and equitable system of learning supports, we offer free distance coaching and technical assistance <http://smhp.psych.ucla.edu/pdfdocs/coach.pdf>,