
NAEP Scores Highlight the Reality that Reducing the Achievement Gap Requires Reducing the Opportunity Gap

And both require moving in new directions

As in the past:

Too many students today are encountering barriers to learning.

Too many teachers today are encountering barriers to teaching.

Too many proposed “solutions” today are unable to do enough to reduce the achievement and opportunity gaps.

Given all this, Boards of Education, Superintendents, Principals, leaders of student/learning support initiative can no longer ignore the reality that their approaches to addressing barriers to learning and teaching require fundamental *TRANSFORMATION!*

For an understanding of the difference between what is happening currently and what a *transformation* involves, see the brief discussions in

> *Transforming Student/Learning Supports: What We've Learned so Far*
<https://smhp.psych.ucla.edu/pdfdocs/spring2022.pdf>

> *School Boards Must Pursue New Directions to Help Schools Address Barriers to Learning and Teaching*
<https://smhp.psych.ucla.edu/pdfdocs/winter25.pdf>

If you don't think major changes are needed in what's being done, map how current resources are being used. See

> *Mapping Learning Supports*
<http://smhp.psych.ucla.edu/summit2002/tool%20mapping%20current%20status.pdf>

> *An Aid for Initial Listing of Current Resources Used at a School*
<https://smhp.psych.ucla.edu/pdfdocs/listingresources.pdf>

> *Leadership Infrastructure: Is What We Have What We Need?*
<https://smhp.psych.ucla.edu/summit2002/tool%20infrastructure.pdf>

More details can be accessed in the following free online books:

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

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

> *Embedding Mental Health as Schools Change* <https://smhp.psych.ucla.edu/pdfdocs/mh20a.pdf>

Ready to Move Forward?

See

>*Student/Learning Supports: A Brief Guide for Moving in New Directions*

<https://smhp.psych.ucla.edu/pdfdocs/briefguide.pdf>

>*Transforming Student and Learning Supports: Starting the Process*

<https://smhp.psych.ucla.edu/pdfdocs/systemchangesteps.pdf>

If you have any questions or comments about this, feel free to contact us at any time.

Best wishes and be well,

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