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## ***Do you have a prescription for fostering the well-being of children?***

Take a minute to think about how you feel about this famous quote:

***What the best and wisest parent wants for his (her)  
own child that must the community want for all its children.  
Any other idea ... is narrow and unlovely;  
acted upon, it destroys our democracy.***

If you think and feel as the quote states, we suggest that this is a critical time to remember that

(1) many schools have a staggering number of students who are experiencing a wide range of overlapping learning, behavior, and emotional problems and

(2) schools need to make transformative improvements in how they work on addressing barriers to learning and teaching and reengaging disconnected students.

No one who has studied the matter really thinks that adding one more program is sufficient to address major barriers to learning and teaching and promote the well-being of students in need. It is time for schools, families, and communities to work together to produce a ***fundamental, systemic transformation***. Such a transformation is essential to closing the achievement and opportunity gaps, reducing dropouts, and increasing the likelihood of schools being prized as treasures in their neighborhoods.

If you are ready to take some action, see the ***National Initiative for Transforming Student and Learning Supports*** – <https://smhp.psych.ucla.edu/newinitiative.html> and the resources listed on our Center's website homepage <https://smhp.psych.ucla.edu/>.

Let us know your views. Send to [Ltaylor@ucla.edu](mailto:Ltaylor@ucla.edu).

Best wishes and be well,

Howard & Linda

Howard Adelman, Ph.D., Professor of Psychology & Center Co director  
Linda Taylor, Ph.D., Center Co director  
Dept. of Psychology, UCLA  
Emails: [adelman@psych.ucla.edu](mailto:adelman@psych.ucla.edu)      [Ltaylor@ucla.edu](mailto:Ltaylor@ucla.edu)  
Website: <https://smhp.psych.ucla.edu/>

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