Concerned About Mental Health in Schools?

Schools can make a major contribution to mental health. However, for this to happen, the work must be framed as doing much more than enhancing access to mental health services, enhancing coordination and integration of services, increasing the focus on social emotional learning, and other such initiatives.

Our Center's policy and practice analyses stress that all endeavors concerned about advancing mental health in schools need to be embedded into a broad concept related to school improvement -- such as addressing barriers to learning and teaching. Such a broad emphasis is essential in countering the continuing marginalization not only of the focus on mental health concerns, but of all efforts to address learning, behavior, and learning supports.

For a discussion of this, see the following brief documents:

>*Schools and Mental Health: A Position Statement* https://smhp.psych.ucla.edu/pdfdocs/fall2021.pdf

>*Time for Straight Talk about Mental Health Services and MH in Schools* https://smhp.psych.ucla.edu/pdfdocs/mhinschools.pdf

>*Embedding Mental Health into a Learning Supports Component: An Essential Step for the Field to Take Now* https://smhp.psych.ucla.edu/pdfdocs/embeddingmh.pdf

For an in-depth discussion of the opportunity to advance mental health in schools at this critical moment in time, see

>*Embedding Mental Health as Schools Change* https://smhp.psych.ucla.edu/improving_school_improvement.html

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 .

Best wishes and be well,

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