From the Center for MH & Student/Learning Supports at UCLA

**Embed School-based Services into a Unified, Comprehensive, and
Equitable System of Student/Learning Supports**

Last week we noted that the increased concern about the impact of the COVID 19 pandemic has resulted in
many well intentioned initiatives and policy reports that, unfortunately, limit discussion to integrating and
expanding school-based health services. The latest push is seen in the federal launch of a joint-department effort
to expand school-based health services.

We raised the following caution:

> ***While the focus on school-based services is a necessary piece of addressing barriers to learning and
> teaching, it is just one facet of what schools need. And focusing on it in isolation of what else is
> needed has unfortunate consequences for students and schools.***

This caution produced queries about what we think needs to be done. We have addressed the matter in many
resources – most of which can be freely accessed from our website.

Here are some of the recent reports:

> *How School Boards Can Pursue New Directions to Help Schools Address Barriers to Learning and
> Teaching* http://smhp.psych.ucla.edu/pdfdocs/boardrep2022.pdf

> *We won't Argue Against Adding More Counselors,*
>   *BUT ...*
>   *Addressing Student Mental Health Concerns Involves Much More than Increasing the Number of
>   Mental Health Providers* http://smhp.psych.ucla.edu/pdfdocs/morethan.pdf

> *2021-22: Addressing Learning, Behavior, and Emotional Problems Through Better Use of Student and
> Learning Support Staff* http://smhp.psych.ucla.edu/pdfdocs/supports.pdf

> *Enhancing Student/Learning Supports in Classrooms*
> http://smhp.psych.ucla.edu/pdfdocs/classroomredes.pdf

> *About Connecting Students with the Right Forms of Mental Health Assistance*
> http://smhp.psych.ucla.edu/pdfdocs/connect.pdf

> *Improving Student/Learning Supports Requires Reworking the Operational Infrastructure*
> http://smhp.psych.ucla.edu/pdfdocs/reworkinfra.pdf

> *New Directions for School Improvement Policy* http://smhp.psych.ucla.edu/pdfdocs/policynd.pdf

> *Evolving Community Schools and Transforming Student/Learning Supports*
> http://smhp.psych.ucla.edu/pdfdocs/evolvecomm.pdf

Restructuring California Schools to Address Barriers to Learning and Teaching in the COVID 19 Context and Beyond https://edpolicyinca.org/sites/default/files/2020-11/pb_adelman_nov2020.pdf

Transforming Student/Learning Supports: What We've Learned so Far
http://smhp.psych.ucla.edu/pdfdocs/reworkinfra.pdf

Implementation Science and Complex School Changes
http://smhp.psych.ucla.edu/pdfdocs/implemreport.pdf

And here are three recent books detailing the policy and practice changes that can transform how schools address barriers to learning and teaching and reengage disconnected students and families.

>*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

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