

## **This School Year Ends with Mixed Emotions: Moving Ahead with a Focus on Enhancing Equity of Opportunity**

As the traditional school year comes to a close, there will be mixed emotions. Some sighs of relief; expressions of gratitude to the school personnel who have provided leadership, instruction, and support to students and their families; hopes for the coming year.

Many students will move on to new levels: to middle school, to high school, to college or employment. Many school staff will also be moving on to retirement. Newcomers will be hired (teachers, student support staff, administrators). Changes in leadership will emerge.

With the summer comes opportunities to move ahead with school improvement plans. And given the growing concern about learning, behavior, and emotional problems, here are some resources about improving learning supports at district and school levels.

> *Developing a Unified and Comprehensive System of Learning Supports: First Steps for Superintendents Who Want to Get Started* <http://smhp.psych.ucla.edu/pdfdocs/superstart.pdf>

> *Establishing a Comprehensive System of Learning Supports at a School: Seven Steps for Principals and Their Staff* <http://smhp.psych.ucla.edu/pdfdocs/7steps.pdf>

The first step is to establish a leadership team to move the process along. (See *What is a learning supports leadership team?* – [http://smhp.psych.ucla.edu/pdfdocs/resource\\_coord\\_team.pdf](http://smhp.psych.ucla.edu/pdfdocs/resource_coord_team.pdf) )

The team will need to map existing student/learning support resources and analyze what's working, what needs strengthening, and critical gaps. (See *Mapping & Analyzing Learning Supports and An Aid for Initial Listing of Current Resources Used at a School for Addressing Barriers Learning and Teaching* – <http://smhp.psych.ucla.edu/summit2002/tool%20mapping%20current%20status.pdf> )

More detailed guidance can be found in

- > *Addressing Barriers to Learning: In the Classroom and Schoolwide*
- > *Improving School Improvement*
- > *Embedding Mental Health as Schools Change*

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

A host of other free resources are available on the Center's website <http://smhp.psych.ucla.edu>

Let us know if there are resources you need that we might be able to provide.

And please share this with any colleagues who might be interested.

