

From the national Center for MH in Schools & Student/Learning Supports at UCLA  
<https://smhp.psych.ucla.edu>

## **Who's Really Interested in *TRANSFORMING* Student and Learning Supports?**

We regularly hear the laments about how schools are not effectively addressing barriers to learning and teaching and reengaging disconnected students and families. This is seen as a fundamental reason that many schools are not closing the opportunity and achievement gaps.

And we regularly get requests for help in improving student and learning supports.

But we find most folks are not thinking in terms of making essential changes in school improvement policy and guiding ***transformative*** systemic improvement in student/learning supports.\*

Indeed, we have come to fear that hardly anyone is really focused on the type of systemic changes that are needed to make a significant dent in the increasing number of learning, behavior, and emotional problems schools encounter every day.

***Are we wrong?***

***Let us know what you think about all this.***

***And if you know of places that are in the process of transforming student/learning supports, please share the information with us.***

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**\*What we find is that most folks who discuss ways to improve student and learning supports focus mainly on**

- >adding a few more personnel to help address learning loss and MH problems
- >simply embracing the MTSS framework
- >adopting/adapting the Full Service Community Schools model
- >enhancing coordination and integration of *services*

***Such approaches clearly are relevant and can be built upon***, but they are insufficient in meeting the needs at too many schools for addressing barriers to learning and teaching and

reengaging disconnected students and families. And by themselves these efforts ignore and too often impede making essential changes in school improvement policy and guiding *transformative* systemic improvement in student/learning supports.

For an example of what a transformative approach, see

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

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

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Best wishes and be well,

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