

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

Responding to Attacks on Public Education Require Innovation and Transformation

The escalating attacks on public education make it clear that innovative and transformative school improvements are essential. In this connection, (to slightly modify a Keynesian quote):

The real difficulty in changing the course of any enterprise lies not just in developing new ideas but in escaping old ones.

In this connection, we note the tendency of pre- and in-service professional development (PD) programs to pay too little attention to what is involved in escaping old ideas, developing innovative and transformative school improvements, and implementing sustainable systemic changes.

Let's take steps toward correcting this deficiency. For example, with respect to improving the way schools address barriers to learning and teaching, PD programs need to include a focus on ways to *transform* student/learning supports. As aids for this, we have developed and put the following on line for free adoption/adaptation:

- > *New Directions for School Improvement Policy*
<https://smhp.psych.ucla.edu/pdfdocs/policynd.pdf>
- > *Addressing Barriers to Learning: In the Classroom and Schoolwide*
<https://smhp.psych.ucla.edu/pdfdocs/barriersbook.pdf>
- > *Embedding Mental Health as Schools Change*
<https://smhp.psych.ucla.edu/pdfdocs/mh20a.pdf>
- > *Student/Learning Supports: A Brief Guide for Moving in New Directions*
<https://smhp.psych.ucla.edu/pdfdocs/briefguide.pdf>
- > *Implementation Science and School Improvement*
<https://smhp.psych.ucla.edu/pdfdocs/implscience.pdf>

In addition, the Center's website provides access to a *System Change Toolkit*
<https://smhp.psych.ucla.edu/summit2002/resourceaids.htm> and many other relevant resources.

We are looking to learning from others about ideas for how to focus pre- and in-service on these matters. Let us hear from you.

Best wishes and be well,

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