

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

Enhancing Equity of Opportunity at Schools: Not likely without schools developing a Unified, Comprehensive, and Equitable System of Student/Learning Supports

We don't know anyone who argues against the need to enhance equity of opportunity at schools. The reality, however, is that it can't happen without doing a lot more to address barriers to learning and teaching.

For school to do more, steps must be taken to transform student/learning supports into a unified, comprehensive, and equitable system.

Currently, several efforts are being made to improve student/learning supports (e.g., adoption of some form of MTSS, SEL, integrated supports, a "comprehensive mental health" approach, increased tutoring). But these initiatives all fall far short of producing a unified and comprehensive system to address barriers to learning and teaching and reengage disconnected students. Until such a system is developed and implemented at all schools and for all students in a district *equity of opportunity* will remain aspirational.

We do know how easy it is to call for and how hard it is to make transformative system changes.

But change is essential and fortunately there are stakeholders who are determined to move forward. They understand that transforming student and learning supports is fundamental to increasing equity of opportunity and that equity of opportunity is fundamental to promoting whole child development/learning and advancing social justice.

For those who are ready to move forward, we have prepared a brief set of notes outlining some first steps along with links to aid in accomplishing the steps. See

*>First Steps in Transforming Student and Learning Supports into a
Unified and Comprehensive System to Address Barriers to Learning and Teaching*
<http://smhp.psych.ucla.edu/pdfdocs/1ststeps.pdf>

Soon we will follow this up with a more detailed guide.

And we will continue to provide free online mentoring, coaching, & technical assistance (see <http://smhp.psych.ucla.edu/pdfdocs/coach.pdf>).

Please share this information with those who may find it helpful.

And if you have any questions or want to share something you think others might find relevant, send them to Ltaylor@ucla.edu

