Improving Student/Learning Supports:
Superintendents Lead the Way

Our Center provides many freely accessible resources to enhance professional development and facilitate system change related to improving student/learning supports. Over the years, a variety of stakeholders, including many district and state superintendents, have drawn on these resources.

Given the archaic system of student/learning supports at most schools, some superintendents have paid particular attention to school improvement policy and practices for transforming how schools address barriers to learning and teaching. Such a transformation is essential for dealing with the increasing volume of learning, behavior, and emotional problems, and reducing absentees.

So, along with all the others challenges schools are facing, superintendents need to start making the fundamental systemic changes required in transforming student/learning supports.

Below are examples of resources developed as part of our work with superintendents.

>*District Superintendents and the School Improvement Problem of Addressing Barriers to Learning*

>*Another Initiative? Where Does it Fit? A Unifying Framework and an Integrated Infrastructure for Schools to Address Barriers to Learning*

>*Learning Supports Initiative: A Compendium of Practice and Findings*

>*First Steps for Superintendents Who Want to Get Started*

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

>*Transforming Student and Learning Supports: Starting the Process*

>*Building on MTSS to Enhance How Schools Address Barriers to Learning*

>*Resource Mapping and Management to Address Barriers to Learning: An Intervention for Systemic Change*

>*Rethinking District Budgets to Unify and Sustain a Critical Mass of Student and Learning Supports at Schools*

>*Funding Stream Integration to Promote Development and Sustainability of a Comprehensive System of Learning Supports*

>*Infrastructure for Learning Supports at District, Regional, and State Offices*

>*Connecting Schools in Ways that Strengthen Learning Supports*

>*Implementing a Comprehensive System of Learning Supports: A Brief District Guide for Moving Forward*

>*New Directions for School Counselors, Psychologists, & Social Workers*

>*Transforming School Improvement to Develop a Comprehensive System of Learning Supports: What District Superintendents Say They Need to Move Forward*

More on all this can be accessed from our Center's online clearinghouse Quick Finds. For example, see

>*Cost-Benefit Analyses Relevant to Addressing Barriers to Learning and MH in Schools*

>*School Improvement Planning*

Pioneering Examples of State and District Work on Transforming Student/Learning Supports are Documented in

>*Transforming Student and Learning Supports: Lessons Learned from Trailblazing and Pioneer Initiatives*

These examples underscore how essential superintendent leadership is for such work. Unfortunately, we have found that places that moved forward to transform student/learning supports ended their transformative efforts as superintendents changed. When new superintendents arrive, sustaining promising system changes requires leaders who recognize the importance and support their ongoing development and implementation. (See *Leadership Changes: Minimizing the Downside* .)

Recently, we reported major lessons we have learned about sustaining system changes. See
>*Transforming Student/Learning Supports & Enhancing Equity of Opportunity: A Journey of Lessons Learned*

And, of course, a fundamental lesson learned is that those involved in making systemic change, must pay closer attention to implementation science. See
>*Implementation Science and School Improvement*

For system change and policy examples and tools related to transforming student supports into a unified, comprehensive, equitable system for addressing barriers to learning and teaching, see
>*System Change Toolkit*

And there is much more available

The above are just a few examples of the many free resources developed by our Center. For more from us and from a variety of other sources, our online Clearinghouse menu offers over 130 Quick Find topics.
https://smhp.psych.ucla.edu/quicksearch.htm