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## **Response to queries about help for moving in new directions for student/learning supports**

From the:

### **NATIONAL INITIATIVE FOR TRANSFORMING STUDENT & LEARNING SUPPORTS\***

We were pleased that many of the respondents to our recent query indicated familiarity with and interest in efforts to move forward with unifying and then developing a comprehensive and equitable system of learning supports.

Some asked for more specifics about how we can help.

- (1) A good way to get started is to share some introductory resources with their colleagues and leaders. This often stimulates folks to start making changes on their own. Here are a few examples:

*>Every Student Succeeds Act: Planning is an Immediate Task, But . . . Addressing Barriers to Learning is the Pressing Imperative* -- <http://smhp.psych.ucla.edu/pdfdocs/newsletter/Winter17.pdf> ).

*>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>

*>Enhancing a School Board's Focus on Addressing Barriers to Learning & Teaching* – <http://smhp.psych.ucla.edu/pdfdocs/schoolboardfocus.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>

- (2) Then, use our free distance technical assistance and coaching (just email [Ltaylor@ucla.edu](mailto:Ltaylor@ucla.edu) with questions)
- (3) Individuals anxious to move forward frequently ask us to make presentations to decision makers at districts and state education agencies. Here are some process steps that we have found most productive before doing so:
  - (A) Before having us come to a district/department to meet with key leaders, it is essential to have those who you want us to talk with read a brief overview of what we are about. For example, they could look at the online article at <http://smhp.psych.ucla.edu/pdfdocs/newsletter/Winter17.pdf> or review the Alabama design document - <http://www.alsde.edu/ofc/ols/Documents/ALDOEDesignDocument.pdf> .
  - (B) Assuming that what they read still interests them, we find that key leaders usually have some immediate questions and concerns. We ask that these be formulated and emailed to us for a quick interchange.
  - (C) Then, we have found that a conference call with those most involved in deciding whether to move forward is a good lead up to planning face-to-face working sessions.

Note: While we don't charge fees, but when it comes time for on-site discussions and coaching, we do ask that our costs be reimbursed,

We look forward to hearing from all who are interested in enhancing equity of opportunity by moving in new directions for addressing barriers to learning and teaching and re-engaging disconnected students.

We hope to help in any way we can.

**Send requests to [Ltaylor@ucla.edu](mailto:Ltaylor@ucla.edu)**

\*For more information about the *National Initiative for Transforming Student and Learning Supports*, see <http://smhp.psych.ucla.edu/newinitiative.html>

