

## Introducing the Idea of Developing a Comprehensive System of Learning Supports to Administrators and Others Who May Be Ready to Move Forward\*

Superintendents and other administrators and school board members are key to establishing school improvement policy and practice changes. We are hearing from various places that key policy makers increasingly are ready to think about new directions for addressing barriers to learning and teaching and reengaging disconnected students.

We suggest the following as a strategic set of steps for introducing policy makers to the idea of unifying and then developing a comprehensive and equitable system of learning supports.

- (1) Provide a Brief Introductory Memo (see attached prototype)
- (2) Follow-up by sending a Brief Introductory Document – see for example, *Reversing the Fragmentation of Student/Learning Supports: ...*  
<http://smhp.psych.ucla.edu/pdfdocs/summer2022.pdf>

OR

*Restructuring California Schools to Address Barriers to Learning and Teaching in the COVID 19 Context and Beyond*  
[https://edpolicyinca.org/sites/default/files/2020-11/pb\\_adelman\\_nov2020.pdf](https://edpolicyinca.org/sites/default/files/2020-11/pb_adelman_nov2020.pdf)

(Note: if this document doesn't seem to fit your situation, there are others to choose from on the Center website <http://smhp.psych.ucla.edu/> )

- (3) After another week, follow-up by providing information about other places that have done pioneering work. Specifically, refer to the following –
    - >*Brochures from Districts and State Departments attempting to move forward*  
<http://smhp.psych.ucla.edu/toolkit1a.htm>
    - >*State and District Design Documents that exemplify what's possible*  
<http://smhp.psych.ucla.edu/toolkitb1a.htm>
- (Note: we have a discussion of *Lessons Learned from Trailblazing and Pioneer Initiatives* <http://smhp.psych.ucla.edu/summit2002/trailblazing.htm> )

- (4) For answers to typical questions raised in the process, see and share as needed material from the

>**Q & A Talking Points** (in Section A of the Center's System Change Toolkit)  
<http://smhp.psych.ucla.edu/toolkit2.htm>

- (5) A supplementary strategy is to use the Center's mapping tool and send it as evidence of the need to rethink student/learning supports and fill critical gaps. See
  - >**Mapping & Analyzing Learning Supports**  
<http://smhp.psych.ucla.edu/summit2002/tool%20mapping%20current%20status.pdf>

- (6) At any time, for more information and coaching from our Center, contact either Co-director (Howard Adelman or Linda Taylor) to discuss ways we can help move things forward; just email [Ltaylor@ucla.edu](mailto:Ltaylor@ucla.edu) or [adelman@psych.ucla.edu](mailto:adelman@psych.ucla.edu).

\*The national Center for MH in Schools & Student/Learning Supports at UCLA is co-directed by Howard Adelman and Linda Taylor in the Dept. of Psychology, UCLA,  
Website: <http://smhp.psych.ucla.edu> Send comments to [ltaylor@ucla.edu](mailto:ltaylor@ucla.edu)

***Intro Memo Prototype***

To:

From:

Re: *About Developing a Unified, Comprehensive, and Equitable System of Learning Supports to Better Address Barriers to Learning and Teaching and Reengage Disconnected Students*

Given the sparse resources available to address students' learning and behavior problems and mental health concerns that interfere with student progress, it is imperative to rethink how best to provide student and learning supports to prevent and correct problems in the classroom and school-wide.

For sometime, there has been growing concern that current efforts are not well-conceived and implemented. It is evident that there is considerable fragmentation and significant gaps in efforts to ensure that all students have an equal opportunity to succeed at school and beyond.

As a result, pioneering states and districts have focused on better ways to provide student/learning supports, and there is a national initiative to transform such supports. See:

>***National Initiative for Transforming Student and Learning Supports***

<http://smhp.psych.ucla.edu/newinitiative.html>

>***Brochures from Districts and State Departments attempting to move forward***

<http://smhp.psych.ucla.edu/toolkitla.htm>

>***State and District Design Documents that exemplify what's possible***

<http://smhp.psych.ucla.edu/toolkitla.htm>

Given the ever-tight budget, the challenge is to move quickly in taking next steps in unifying and then developing a comprehensive and equitable system for addressing barriers to learning and teaching and re-engaging disconnected students.

We would like to discuss all this with you in greater detail.

Respectfully submitted: