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***Have districts and schools established a leadership team to meet the challenge of the increased number of students manifesting learning, behavior, and emotional problems?***

Among the many school challenges that the COVID-19 pandemic has exacerbated is how to (a) address the increased number of learning, behavior, and emotional problems and (b) find and reengage students who have disappeared from school rolls.

These matters call for rethinking student and learning supports and raise the question: *Have districts and schools established a leadership team to meet the challenges?*

Our research indicates that a dedicated *Learning Supports Leadership Team* is an essential operational infrastructure mechanism for improving how school resources are deployed to address barriers to learning and teaching and reengage disconnected students.

A Learning Supports Leadership Team assumes responsibility for transforming current marginalized and fragmented student/learning supports into a *unified, comprehensive, and equitable system* that is fully integrated as a primary and essential facet of whole student development and whole school improvement. The work includes outreaching to the community to fill critical system gaps by weaving in human and financial resources from public and private sectors.

Where the MTSS framework has been adopted, it usually is just a starting point for developing a unified, comprehensive, and equitable system of learning supports. A Learning Supports Leadership Team provides a potent mechanism for building on the MTSS framework.

For a brief description of such a team, see <http://smhp.psych.ucla.edu/pdfdocs/resource%20coord%20team.pdf>.

For more about a unified, comprehensive, and equitable system of learning supports, see our Center's recent policy brief prepared at the request of PACE:

*>Restructuring California Schools to Address Barriers to Learning and Teaching  
in the COVID 19 Context and Beyond*

<https://edpolicyinca.org/publications/restructuring-california-schools-address-barriers-learning-and-teaching-covid-19>

**While the brief was prepared for California, it has relevance for every state.**

Note: For those working to transform student/learning supports, the Center provides a variety of other resources online, as well as free TA and coaching via email and Zoom. Website: <http://smhp.psych.ucla.edu/>  
Email: [Ltaylor@ucla.edu](mailto:Ltaylor@ucla.edu) [adelman@psych.ucla.edu](mailto:adelman@psych.ucla.edu)