

**Some key points for use in news releases and to provide media interviewers and for blurbs for websites.**

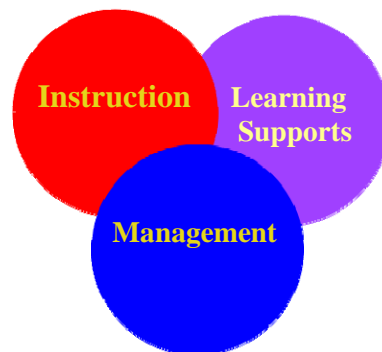
***We are Developing a Comprehensive System of Learning Supports!***

Our new and innovative system of learning supports reflects our steadfast commitment to ensuring all our students have an equal opportunity to succeed at school and beyond.

Learning supports are the resources, strategies, and practices that provide the physical, social, emotional, and intellectual supports that directly address barriers to learning and teaching and that re-engage disconnected students. We have always attended to these concerns. Now we are expanding and improving our efforts by unifying and then developing student and learning supports into a comprehensive system that will ensure essential supports are in all classrooms and school-wide. This new direction is based on extensive research and pioneering efforts.

Here is what we are doing:

- (1) Expanding our school improvement efforts from a two- to a three component approach. The third component is called a learning supports component (see figure below).



- (2) Adopting an intervention framework for learning supports that combines both an integrated and systemic continuum of school and community interventions and a multifaceted and cohesive set of six content areas. The continuum is designed to
  - promote positive development and prevent problems
  - intervene as early after the onset of problems as is feasible
  - provide special assistance for severe and chronic problems.

The continuum is embedded into the following six content areas:

- *Classroom-based approaches to enable learning* (e.g., ensuring classrooms have necessary supports and create and maintain a positive climate)
- *Support for transitions* (e.g., assisting students and families as they negotiate hurdles to enrollment, adjust to school, grade, and program changes, make daily transitions before, during, and after school, access and effectively use supports and extended learning opportunities, and so forth)

- *Home involvement and engagement in schooling* (e.g., increasing and strengthening the home and its connections with school)
- *Community engagement with schools* (e.g., outreach to develop a greater community support from a wide range of entities. This includes agency collaborations and use of volunteers to extend learning opportunities and help students-in-need.)
- *Crises assistance and prevention* (including ensuring immediate assistance in emergencies, providing follow-up care as necessary, developing prevention programs, creating a caring and safe learning environment and countering the impact of out-of-school traumatic events)
- *Student and family assistance* (facilitating student and family access to effective services and special assistance on campus and in the community as needed).

The intent is to fully integrate a unified and comprehensive system of learning supports as a key component in improving outcomes for all our students. The new system will move our schools away from reacting to problems toward a strong emphasis on prevention and early intervention.

For more on all this, see \_\_\_\_\_