
Increased Numbers of Students with Learning, Behavior, and Emotional Problems: What will Schools Do?

For months now, we have seen widespread statements anticipating the growing number of learning, behavior, and emotional problems that schools must address. See, for example, "COVID 19's Impact on Students' Academic and Mental Well Being" (2020) by Youki Terada in *Edutopia* (<https://www.edutopia.org/article/covid-19s-impact-students-academic-and-mental-well-being>); "Safeguarding student mental health" (2020) by Kirsten Weir in *Monitor on Psychology*, (<https://www.apa.org/monitor/2020/09/safeguarding-mental-health>)

Despite the stated concern, the matter of how best to address these pervasive problems remains a marginalized discussion among policy makers and school planners. We note in the above article on "Safeguarding student mental health" our colleague, Roger Weissberg is quoted as saying, "The pandemic is definitely going to be a game changer. The question now is, what kind of game are we going to change to?" Unfortunately, that topic is not the focus of the article.

*It is, however, the focus of our Center's work.**

Here are some recent brief resources that we hope will help generate a discussion of game-changing system transformation that will enable schools to move forward in their efforts to address barriers to learning and teaching and reengage disconnected students.

Go to <http://smhp.psych.ucla.edu/pdfdocs/newsletter/spring20.pdf> , and see

- > *Plan Ahead to Support the Transition-back of Students, Families, and Staff*
- > *Re-opening Schools with a Sense of Exciting Renewal: Generating Hope*
- > *Re-engaging the Disconnected in Instructional Activity*
- > *Addressing Grief and Loss*

Go to <http://smhp.psych.ucla.edu/pdfdocs/newsletter/summer20.pdf> , and see

- > *Schools Re-opening: Safety Plus Enhancing Equity of Opportunity and Social Justice*
- > *The Role of Schools in Promoting Whole Child Development and Learning*

For more in-depth material (e.g., for personnel preparation and ongoing development), see any of our recent books at http://smhp.psych.ucla.edu/improving_school_improvement.html (Available at this time as free resources)

- > *Addressing Barriers to Learning: In the Classroom and Schoolwide*
- > *Improving School Improvement*
- > *Embedding Mental Health as Schools Change*

Let us hear about game-changing ideas and plans so we can share them widely and stimulate thinking about new directions for addressing barriers to learning and teaching and reengaging disconnected students. Send to Ltaylor@ucla.edu

*See *National Initiative for Transforming Student and Learning Supports* <http://smhp.psych.ucla.edu/newinitiative.html>