

About Limited Approaches

The title of a May 1st article in EdSurge is: *Social-Emotional Learning Strategies Don't Work for Every Student. Here's What Does*. As the author notes: “many programs seem disconnected from the realities faced by Black and Latino students, perpetuating the existing challenges.”

Despite the various efforts to address the learning, behavior, and emotional needs of students who are not doing well at school, the tendency is still to propose approaches that simply are too limited and amount to tinkering rather than developing a comprehensive, cohesive, and equitable system of student/learning supports. And the tinkering continues to marginalize student/learning supports in school improvement policy and practice. And the marginalization continues to make student and learning supports personnel among the first laid off as budgets tighten.

The need to transform student/learning supports is obvious, but the commitment of school improvement leaders to do so remains elusive.

Note: Current advocacy for comprehensive school mental health services and ongoing calls for better coordination and integration of support services are widespread examples of the limited approaches and commitment.

Limited approaches maintain achievement and opportunity gaps.

We believe:

Equity of opportunity is fundamental to enabling civil rights; transforming student and learning supports is fundamental to promoting whole child development, advancing social justice, and enhancing learning and a positive school climate.

Through the *National Initiative for Transforming Student and Learning Supports*, our Center emphasizes the opportunity to start now to transform how schools address barriers to learning and teaching and reengage disconnected students. See: <https://smhp.psych.ucla.edu/newinitiative.html>

Let us know if you are aware of efforts underway to transform how schools address barriers to learning and teaching.

And if anyone is thinking about increasing the capacity of a district or school with respect to developing a unified, comprehensive, and equitable system of student/learning supports, we can help. Send all info and requests to ltaylor@ucla.edu

Best wishes and be well,

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