
Making this the Year that Schools Begin Transforming Student/Learning Supports

School efforts to reduce the achievement gap are undermined by insufficient attention to the role they must play in addressing barriers to learning and teaching and reengaging disconnected students and families. A major facet of this is the weaknesses of student/learning supports at most public schools.

An improved student/learning support system is *essential* for schools to be more effective in dealing with factors that interfere with learning and teaching.

From our perspective, a fundamental *transformation* of student/learning supports will enhance equity of opportunity, improve school climate, and ensure more students have the opportunity to succeed. (What hasn't and won't work is just advocating for additional student support staff.)

In our experience, there always are stakeholders who want to make major improvements in how schools address barriers to learning and teaching. These include school board members, superintendents, principals, student/learning support staff, teachers, community collaborative stakeholders, leaders/members of student support associations, and others at SEAs, LEAs, county and regional offices.

It is time for some of these to become trailblazers who lead the field in beginning to make transformative systemic changes in how schools use whatever resources are available. In this respect, we invite you to read and consider the following:

***An Agenda for Improving Student/Learning Supports:
A Month-by-Month Guide for Systemic Change with Existing Resources***
<https://smhp.psych.ucla.edu/pdfdocs/agendapaper.pdf>

We look forward to continuing to help all those who are striving to improve how schools address barriers to learning and teaching and reengage disconnected students and families.

And please let us know what's going on related to making major changes in student/learning supports. (We will share the info with the over 140,000 on our listserv.)

Best wishes and be well,

Howard & Linda

Howard Adelman, Ph.D., Professor of Psychology & Center Co director

Linda Taylor, Ph.D., Center Co director

Dept. of Psychology, UCLA

Emails: adelman@psych.ucla.edu Ltaylor@ucla.edu

Website: <https://smhp.psych.ucla.edu/>