

## **Call to Action**

### **Collaborating for a Move from the Two- to a Three-Component Blueprint Framework for School Improvement and the Reauthorization of ESEA**

**Problem:** Piecemeal proposals for addressing some of the most critical needs of low performing schools continue to compete for attention and are having too little impact on addressing factors that interfere with learning and teaching, re-engaging disconnected students, and promoting healthy development.

Policy analyses indicate that the constant piecemeal approach tends to collude with maintaining the long-standing policy marginalization of critical student and learning supports. The trend also contributes to the continuing neglect of efforts to identify and correct fundamental *systemic* deficits related to enhancing equity of opportunity for success at school and ensuring a truly whole child agenda.

**Needed:** First and foremost, steps must be taken to expand the administration's blueprint for the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA). It is essential that policy makers move to a *three-component framework* for turning around, transforming, and continuously improving schools. The third component will provide a unifying concept and an umbrella under which districts and schools can weave together all interventions specifically intended to address barriers to learning and teaching and re-engage disconnected students.

Only by unifying student and learning supports will it be feasible to develop a *comprehensive system* to directly address many of the complex factors interfering with schools accomplishing their mission. And only by developing such a system will it be feasible to facilitate the *emergence* of a school environment that fosters successful, safe, and healthy students and staff. (It is important to remember that *school climate is an emergent quality* that stems from how schools provide and coalesce on a daily basis the components dedicated to instruction, learning supports, and management/governance.)

**Time to Really Collaborate:** The desire for collaboration is being undercut by the competition for pieces of the pie. Competition for conflicting views of reform is inevitable; the irony is that so much of the competition is among those who have complementary views. At this critical time, we must join together to expand the administration's blueprint for education from a two- to a three-component blueprint framework as a foundation for enabling schools to develop a comprehensive system of learning supports. To do less is to maintain a very unsatisfactory status quo.