

To: District and State Collaborative Network for Developing Comprehensive Systems for Learning Support

From: Howard & Linda

Re: Contacting Organizations about Working Together to Develop *Common Core State Standards for Learning Supports*

August 1, 2012

We wanted to let you know we are sending the following email out to organizations concerned with student and learning supports. If you belong to an organization that you think we should send this to, please let us know. If you want to encourage the organization to participate, that would be great.

Over the next few months, the development of *Common Core State Standards for Learning Supports* will be a major focal point of our new directions initiative.

We intend the work to increase the field's understanding of and advocacy for a unified and comprehensive system of learning supports to address barriers to learning and teaching and re-engage disconnected students.

We will emphasize that development of common core standards for learning supports are essential to educating the whole child and to enhancing equity of opportunity for all children and youth to succeed at school and beyond. We will also emphasize that such standards are essential to the success of initiatives such as the ones focused on Common Core State Standards (*for curriculum*) and Model Core Teaching Standards.

Common Core State Standards for curriculum were developed through broad collaborations of key organizations focused on instruction (led by CCSSO and the Governors), and CCSSO is moving forward with Model Core Teaching Standards. No one has yet brought learning supports to the table.

Thus, we are looking to link a broad range of organizations focused on support for learning supports to join in a process of developing Common Core State Standards for Learning Supports.

To get the process started we used our summer e-journal/newsletter to discuss:
Common Core State Standards: What about Student and Learning Supports?
<http://smhp.psych.ucla.edu/pdfdocs/newsletter/summer12.pdf>

The article provides basic info about the Common Core State Standards movement, model core teaching standards, and how their impact can be enhanced by establishing standards for learning supports.

As a follow-up, we have developed and next week will be sending out a set of policy notes entitled:

Common Core State Standards and Learning Supports
You can access this now at <http://smhp.psych.ucla.edu/pdfdocs/comcorp.pdf>

This document expands the discussion of common core standards beyond its emphasis on curriculum, highlights the work on effective teaching, and stresses the importance of infusing a focus on learning supports as an essential facet of the movement.

We believe the timing is right for this work given the growing interest by districts and states in our new directions initiative and the possibility of having an impact on the ESEA reauthorization next year.

As you will see in the policy notes document, we have developed a “prototype” to get things started. We see a four step process for reaching consensus on a set of core standards:

- (1) eliciting the participation of a key group of relevant organizations
- (2) using the prototype as a beginning step
- (3) using email to amass modifications (deletions, additions, rewordings, etc.)
- (4) sending out revisions and receiving feedback until there is enough consensus to move forward with advocacy

Please email us your thoughts about this.

Warm Regards,

Howard & Linda