

To: Participants in the

- >District and State Collaborative Network for Developing Comprehensive Systems for Learning Support
- >Common Core Standards for Learning Supports Initiative

From: Howard Adelman & Linda Taylor

(1) Re: First steps for superintendents in developing a unified and comprehensive system to address barriers to learning and teaching

As increasing numbers of districts express interest in developing a unified and comprehensive system of learning supports, obviously superintendents are key to establishing this essential facet of school improvement policy and practice.

At the request of one of the superintendents we are working closely with, we have put together a draft highlighting a few strategic first steps as aids to superintendents initiating the process. These steps are drawn from experiences in working with districts across the country. See

**>Developing a Unified and Comprehensive System of Learning Supports:
First Steps for Superintendents Who Want to Get Started**

<http://smhp.psych.ucla.edu/pdfdocs/superstart.pdf>

Please let us know if you have suggestions for improving this draft.

(2) Re: demonstration sites

Also, take a look at the guidance notes we are drafting related to key features of demonstration sites. We are trying to pin down what observers should expect to find with respect to a *unified and comprehensive system of learning supports* at the school the district recommends as a demonstration site. See

>About Demonstration Sites

<http://smhp.psych.ucla.edu/pdfdocs/demosite.pdf>

(3) Anyone coming to the AASA conference in Los Angeles in February?

At the meeting, we will be doing a presentation entitled: *Common Core Standards for a Unified and Comprehensive System of Learning Supports* from 8 to 9 a.m. on Saturday 2/23. Let us know if you will be at the conference on Saturday and would be interested in a get together sometime after 9 a.m.

Finally, let us take this opportunity to wish you all the best as this calendar year ends and a new one emerges offering us all opportunities to move forward in the nest interests of young people, their families, and their communities.