Relaunching Student and Learning Supports

The beginning of the new school year is a great time to "relaunch" student and learning supports and in doing so start to move toward a unified, comprehensive, and equitable system.

Making It Happen

(1) Work with the leadership of student and learning supports to generate the *Relaunch Plan.* Highlight the pressing challenges that need to be addressed this year and outline a strategic plan for actions at all levels (i.e., school, feeder pattern/family of schools, district).*

(2) Use available data to show:
(a) the imperative for and value of student and learning supports
(b) the increasing value of moving toward unified, comprehensive, and equitable system.

(3) Request time with the Superintendent's cabinet, at the Principals meeting, with key staff leaders, and with the board of education to do a brief presentation on *Current Status and the Relaunch Plan.*

(4) Ensure there is policy commitment for what has been proposed.

(5) Arrange for a series of kick-off/showcasing announcements and presentations to all school personnel and to community collaborators and stakeholders (e.g., bulletin/memo/letter announcements from the board/superintendent/principals; leadership presentations). Be sure to include presentations at the teachers meetings that feature the learning support staff at that school/feeder pattern.

Let us know if you think we can help as you move forward to strengthen learning supports. Contact Ltaylor@ucla.edu

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*Note about sharing the plan. Prepare a short handout of the key points in the Relaunch Plan to guide presentations and to ensure that everyone has a copy of the why, who, and what is to take place. For example, emphasize the following:

- "Over the past year, we have accomplished the following ...

- At the same time, our efforts have been hampered by the piecemeal and fragmented way student and learning supports continue to be organized.

- As we relaunch, the plan is to move toward a unified, comprehensive, and equitable system. To make it happen, we are proposing policy, a new leadership structure for student and learning supports and a related plan for staff development, and full integration of the relaunch plan into school improvement strategic plans.

- The relaunch is intended to increase prevention and early intervention efforts to address barriers to learning related to: in-classroom learning and student supports, supports for transitions, home and community involvement and engagement, crisis assistance and prevention, and student/family assistance.

- Anticipated outcomes include:
    >development of a unified, comprehensive, and equitable system of learning supports
        >improved attendance, reduction in referrals for behavior problems, enhanced
    engagement in learning, improved social and emotional functioning, and more
    >higher levels of student, family and staff morale and an improved school climate

- Immediate next steps will be to widely share what will be happening."

Relaunch Resources

The Center has many resources to aid in a Relaunch Plan. For example, see

- On advocating for policy that will end the long standing marginalization of student and learning supports in school improvement policy and practice

    >*Toward Next Steps in School Improvement: Addressing Barriers to Learning and Teaching* – http://smhp.psych.ucla.edu/pdfdocs/systemic/towardnextstep.pdf

    >*Fully Integrating Student/Learning Supports into the School Improvement Agenda* – http://smhp.psych.ucla.edu/pdfdocs/fully integrating student-learning supports.pdf

    >Part I of *Transforming Student and Learning Supports: Developing a Unified, Comprehensive, and Equitable System* – http://smhp.psych.ucla.edu/pdfdocs/book/book.pdf

- On pursing actions to end the fragmented implementation of student/learning supports

    >*First Steps in Transforming Student and Learning Supports into a Unified and Comprehensive System to Address Barriers to Learning and Teaching* – http://smhp.psych.ucla.edu/pdfdocs/1ststeps.pdf

    >*Establishing a Comprehensive System of Learning Supports at a School: Seven Steps for Principals and Their Staff* – http://smhp.psych.ucla.edu/pdfdocs/7steps.pdf

    >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

    >*Benchmark Checklist for Monitoring and Reviewing Progress in Developing a Comprehensive System to Address Barriers to Learning and Teaching* – http://smhp.psych.ucla.edu/pdfdocs/studentsupport/toolkit/benchmarktool.pdf

- On enhancing how schools address barriers to learning and teaching and re-engage disconnected students
    >*Five Essential Elements of a Unified and Comprehensive System of Learning Supports* – http://smhp.psych.ucla.edu/pdfdocs/essentials.pdf

    >*Transforming Learning Supports to Transform Schools* – http://smhp.psych.ucla.edu/pdfdocs/transform.pdf

- On showcasing these matters in communications, at meeting and conferences, in professional development, etc.

    >See our website for power point presentations, webinar samples, brochures, etc. (Access by going to the Center's System Change Toolkit – http://smhp.psych.ucla.edu/summit2002/resourceaids.htm

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