

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

As you will have seen by now, we have synthesized the initial input into a document entitled: "Common Core Standards for a Learning Supports Component" and prepared an Executive Summary. These can be accessed at

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

So we now are ready to propose the set of standards and related quality indicators for consideration by as wide a group of stakeholders as we can reach. The aims are to inform, stimulate discussion, receive additional input, and garner more and more endorsements.

Note: We already have stimulated discussion with the Council of Chief State School Officers (CCSSO), with the common core partners working through the Hunt Institute, with ASCD, with Americas Promise, and other major stakeholders. We did blogs for Education Week and the Hunt Institute (and ASCD) reproduced the latter for their website.

And we are receiving endorsements (e.g., Public Education Network (PEN), the National School Climate Center, the Pennsylvania Association of Pupil Services, and many individual leaders). For example, here is the one from Bob Cormany, Executive Director of the Pennsylvania Association of Pupil Services: "We at the Pennsylvania Association of Pupil Services Administrators wholeheartedly endorse the concept of and need for a set of Learning Support Standards. We feel that such standards are necessary to provide learning support services with the professional foundation necessary to ensure that they are taken seriously as an equal partner with administration and instruction in the educational process." Bob also has identified how he can help disseminate the work in Pennsylvania. He informed us that: "When it comes to getting information about standards to the key people in our state, the Department of Education (PDE) has a list serve called "Penn*Link" which reaches all chief school administrators and PDE officials. Our organization belongs to the Penn*Link network and if you provide me with any material you wish to have disseminated, I will do so." He also notes that: "PAPSA is the largest branch of NAPSA and I can share any information with them. PAPSA members currently are serving as Executive Director, President, and Editor for NAPSA."

The role you can play at this time is to use whatever mechanisms are available to you to disseminate the following:

Initiative for Common Core Standards for Learning Supports

The pressing need for common core standards for learning supports calls for immediate action. Therefore, our Center at UCLA has expanded our new directions initiative to encompass development of Common Core State Standards for Learning Supports. Working with others across the country, the first emphasis has been on developing Common Core Standards for a Learning Supports Component.

In August we sent out a request for input on prototypes for standards and related indicators and have heard from a critical mass of respondents. The group includes superintendents, principals, teachers, support staff, associations of educators, community agency staff, professors, and more.

The initial input and available research and pioneering efforts in several states and districts have been synthesized. A refined document has been prepared and now is offered as a rationale and proposed set of Common Core Standards for a Learning Supports Component, with related quality indicators appended (access at <http://smhp.psych.ucla.edu/pdfdocs/comcorannounce.pdf>)

The work is intended to ensure that the nature and scope of a unified and comprehensive system of learning supports is understood and to guide adoption of such a system. As the proposed standards and indicators underscore, a learning supports component coalesces and systematizes what is common in all student and learning supports and provides a base upon which the needs of specific student subgroups, the contributions of various professional specialties and specific programs, and the unique considerations of localities can be built.

At this time, we are seeking further refinements and indications of endorsement. Send any questions, comments, and endorsements to Ltaylor@ucla.edu

Warm Regards,

Howard & Linda

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

Linda Taylor, Ph.D.
Co-director

School Mental Health Project/
Center for Mental Health in Schools
Dept. of Psychology, UCLA
Box 951563
Los Angeles, CA 90095-1563
Ph: 310/825-1225 email: adelman@psych.ucla.edu Ltaylor@ucla.edu
Center website: <http://smhp.psych.ucla.edu/>