
INTRODUCTION

Federal, state, and local governments allocate billions of dollars for services, programs, and resources dedicated to education, social services, physical and mental health, and enrichment opportunities in order to promote healthy child development and academic progress.

These resources have the power to be transformative. Too often they are not.

The complicated tangle of programs, services, and resources creates a barrier to children’s wellbeing, learning, and opportunity. Transforming this delivery system is both possible and urgent.

The first *National Guidelines for Integrated Student Support* outline how the traditional school student support function can be updated to transform existing school and community resources into a powerful engine of learning and opportunity for each and every student.

The National Guidelines provide policymakers with insight into how to enable the implementation of systems of integrated student support consistent with best practices that can promote healthy development and positive *outcomes*. These guidelines also detail quality benchmarks to ensure that public investments are more likely to benefit students, teachers, families, and taxpayers.

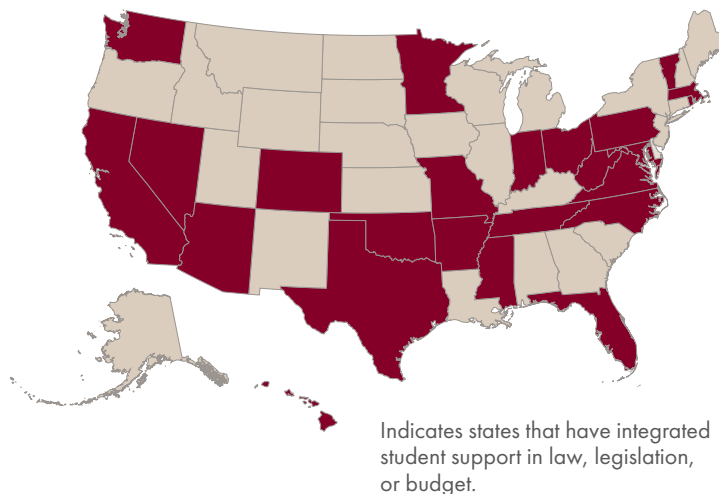


WHAT IS INTEGRATED STUDENT SUPPORT?

Integrated student support is an evidence-based approach for schools to provide student support by intentionally and systematically leveraging and coordinating the resources and relationships available in the school and in the surrounding community to address the comprehensive strengths and needs of every student in a school in order to help promote healthy child development and learning.

The term was first used in the 2015 reauthorization of the Elementary and Secondary School Act. In 2018, Community Schools **identified** integrated student support as one of the four pillars of the Community School model. In response to the COVID-19 crisis, governments are investing in programs that help school districts design and implement integrated student supports focused on addressing a wide range of student and family needs. Presently, at least **24 states**—red and blue—are at some stage of policymaking to advance integrated student support programs, protocols, or practices.

STATES ADVANCING INTEGRATED STUDENT SUPPORT



HOW THE NATIONAL GUIDELINES CAN INFORM POLICY MAKING

The National Guidelines can help policymakers to:

- Define quality implementation of integrated student support.
- Target funding for implementation and technical assistance to improve efficacy.
- Shape the marketplace for technology in support of best practices.
- Identify useful data, including data that can inform municipal and state budgeting, partnerships, and convening.
- Measure impacts.

WHY INTEGRATED STUDENT SUPPORT?

Integrated student support opens a new gateway for policymakers to better use existing resources dedicated to promoting learning and wellbeing for children and youth. Through the implementation of effective integrated student support approaches, policymakers can positively change the relationship between childhood adversity and lowered life chances so that all children can develop, learn, and thrive.

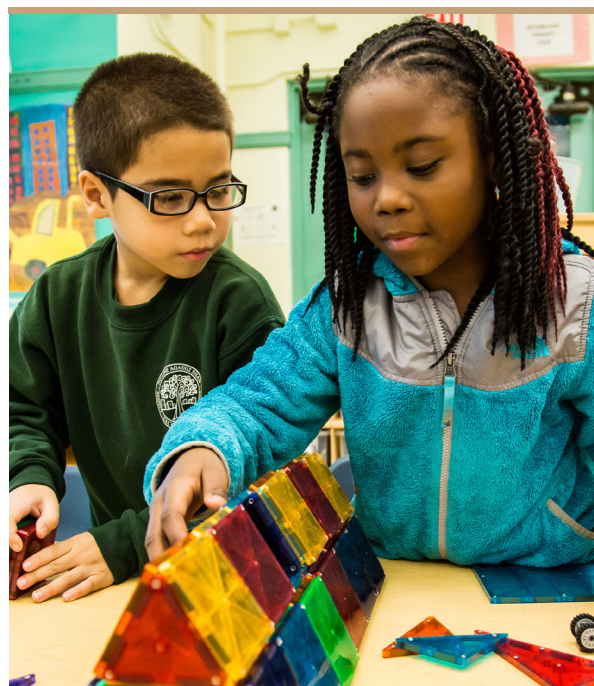
The National Guidelines for Integrated Student Support draw on the sciences of learning and development, as well as proven models in the field, to describe how schools can efficiently and effectively establish the operational infrastructure and best practices to broker school and community resources, relationships, and opportunities that promote student learning and lifelong opportunity.

Define quality implementation of integrated student support

The National Guidelines outline six core components for practitioners and provide policymakers with quality benchmarks that can improve the implementation of a range of efforts dedicated to addressing the “whole child.” These efforts may include integrated student support, Community Schools, Promise Neighborhoods, Head Start, and other programs that aim to drive comprehensive resources to support children’s healthy development and learning.

A quality approach will:

- Make student support universal and individualized for each and every student, not only those who draw attention.
- Ensure comprehensive student supports—including academic, social-emotional-behavioral, physical health, mental wellbeing, and family—are central to the day-to-day operations of a school to help promote learning.
- Efficiently and effectively leverage the personnel and resources available in the school and the surrounding community to support students and their families so that students are ready to engage in learning.
- Emphasize personnel credentials, professional development, training, and staff support.
- Use data for the continuous improvement of implementation and evaluation of outcomes.



Target funding for implementation and technical assistance to improve efficacy

Target funding and technical assistance consistent with National Guidelines by:

- Identifying and incentivizing the implementation of evidence-based models that fulfill the quality benchmarks identified by the standards.
- Creating opportunities for professional development, technical assistance, and tool development to support the implementation of best practices, such as a school or district learning network.
- Promoting innovations consistent with the National Guidelines, such as for supporting technology, online professional development and coaching.

Shape the marketplace for technology in support of best practices

Create requirements for Student Information Systems (SIS) providers and support technological infrastructure that enables the implementation of integrated student support best practices, such as:

- Avoid further district technological fragmentation and support district choice by requiring all SIS providers to enable an extension to their existing system that permits schools to:
 - Create and maintain individualized “whole child” plans for every student.

- Compile school- and community-based resources.
- Enable ongoing, feedback, follow-up, and uses of data.
- Develop parameters for new entrants to the student support technology marketplace that facilitate best practices and privacy protections.

Identify useful data

Implementation consistent with the **National Guidelines** can provide policymakers with data to inform decision-making relative to budgeting, partnerships, and convenings. For example, metrics such as:

- The number of students benefiting from different categories of services and enrichments can inform understanding of trends and community needs and interests.
- The number and percentage of services and enrichments assigned but not delivered can illuminate gaps in interests and needs that can be filled through the development of strategic partnerships, service provider engagement, or targeted budgeting.
- Data on student subgroups such as race/ethnicity, gender, or socioeconomic status can reveal inequities and opportunities to address them.

Measure impacts

Measure the impacts of integrated student support investments to inform more efficient budgeting and decision-making by:

- Identifying the responsiveness of cross-sector investments and partnerships relative to local interests and needs.
- Understanding the supply and demand of services that support student wellbeing across education, social services, health and mental health, and youth development.
- Requesting evaluation of effectiveness to inform future investments.

CONCLUSION

The **National Guidelines for Integrated Student Support** give policymakers insight into how to expand high-quality implementation, target resources, and use data to inform decision-making and understand outcomes. Building systems of integrated student support to coordinate the many services, resources, and enrichments available in schools and in surrounding communities is a proven approach that improves student academic outcomes and overall life chances.



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