
INTRODUCTION

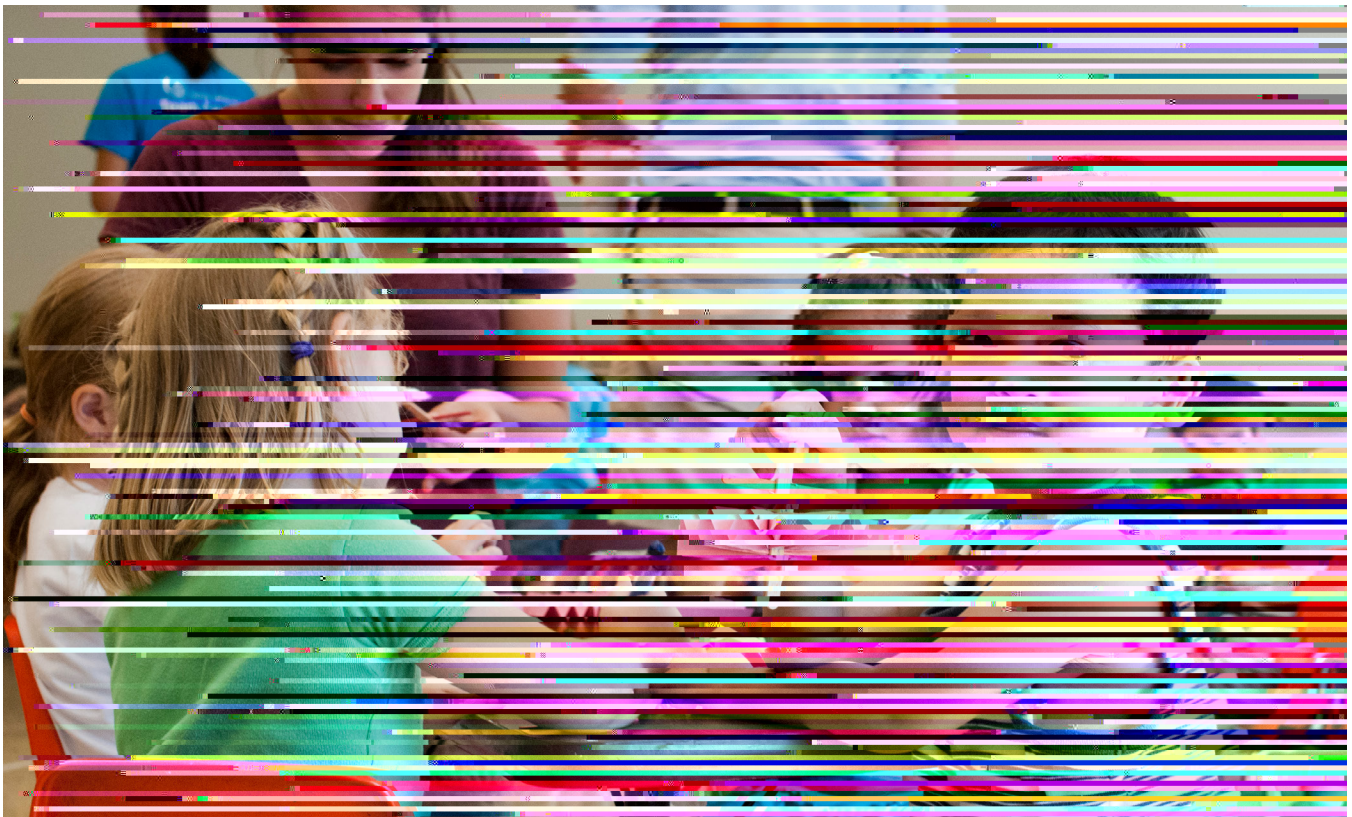
Federal, state, and local governments allocate billions of dollars for services, programs, and resources dedicated to education, social services, physical and mental health, and enrichment opportunities in order to promote healthy child development and academic progress.

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.

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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

Definition of Evidence-Based Practice

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 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.

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- Creating opportunities for professional development, technical assistance, and tool development to support the implementation of evidence-based models that fulfill the quality benchmarks identified by the standards.

