Systemic Student Support (S3) Academy

Classroom instruction is not enough to ensure success in school. Out-of-school factors influence up to two-thirds of disparities in academic outcomes, and many schools are working to respond to the complex and ever-changing needs of students while working to close opportunity gaps. To fully support students, we need to build systems for understanding every student’s unique strengths and needs and connect them to appropriate school- and community-based resources. Known as a system of integrated student support (ISS), this network of care and resources range from tutoring and extracurricular activities, to physical and mental health care, to food banks or employment assistance.

Academy Overview:
The Systemic Student Support (S3) Academy supports schools and districts in creating a system of integrated student support. S3A will deepen practitioners’ understanding of the key characteristics of a system that proactively identifies barriers to success and addresses students’ needs, while building on their individual strengths. Each participating team will engage in a continuous improvement process to design, test, implement, and scale their own system of integrated student support. Through individualized technical assistance, teams will be able to tailor the academy offerings to fit their school's unique needs. Participants will also have opportunities to come together as a community to work on shared challenges, identify effective resources, and engage in collaborative problem-solving to move toward a more effective, equitable strategy for meeting the needs of all students.

The academy is co-lead by The Rennie Center for Education Research and Policy and the Boston College Lynch School of Education and Development’s Center for Optimized Student Support (C OSS).

Team Composition:
The S3 Academy is designed to support school-based teams. Each team should include at least 3 members:
- A school administrator with decision-making authority (to act as the team’s lead)
- A student support-related staff member (e.g. school counselor, school social worker, school adjustment counselor etc.)
- A teacher or general educator

For districts that intend to have multiple schools participate, a district level person must also be a member. For schools that join independently, there will be 1-2 meetings for which we ask a district level person to attend.

Eligibility:
While student support is critical at all levels, at this time the Academy is best suited to support building effective systems in grades K-8. Schools of any size, location, or general demographics may apply to participate.

For more information, please contact the S3 Academy facilitators at s3academyma@gmail.com