

WEST VIRGINIA SCHOOL PSYCHOLOGISTS

West Virginia school psychologists are certified/licensed professionals who improve student success for ALL students by following the NASP Model for Comprehensive and Integrated School Psychological Services.



SCHOOL PSYCHOLOGIST TRAINING

West Virginia school psychologists complete a Master's Program and Education Specialist Program (at least 60 graduate hours) which includes:

- a year-long supervised internship of 1200 hours
- preparation in mental health and educational interventions
- child development
- learning, behaviors, motivation
- curriculum and instruction
- assessment
- consultation and collaboration
- school law and systems

School psychologists must be certified and/or licensed by the state(s) in which they work and may be nationally certified by the National School Psychology Certification Board (NSPCB).

The National Association of School Psychologists (NASP) sets ethical and training standards.

SCHOOL PSYCHOLOGIST QUALIFICATIONS

- **Have a minimum of a specialist-level graduate degree in school psychology, which combines the disciplines of psychology and education.**
- **Meet the state certification/licensure standards**
- **Fulfill continuing education requirements through professional development including the West Virginia School Psychologists' Association conferences, WVDE sponsored conferences, NASP offerings, APA offerings, etc.**
- **Uphold NASP standards for practice and ethics**

SCHOOL PSYCHOLOGIST'S ROLE



School psychologists help children and youth succeed academically, socially, behaviorally, and emotionally.

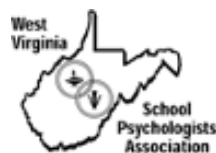
They collaborate with educators, parents, and other professionals to create safe, healthy, and supportive learning environments that strengthen connections between home, school, and the community for all students.

School Psychologists help students by:

- providing counseling, instruction, and mentoring for those struggling with social, emotional, and behavioral problems
- increasing achievement by assessing barriers to learning and determining the best instructional strategies to improve learning
- promoting wellness and resilience by reinforcing communication and social skills, problem-solving, anger management, self-regulation, self-determination, and optimism
- enhancing understanding and acceptance of diverse cultures and backgrounds

School Psychologists help families to:

- identify and address learning and behavior problems that interfere with school success
- evaluate eligibility for special education services (within a multidisciplinary team)
- support students' social, emotional, and behavioral health
- teach parenting skills and enhance home-school collaboration
- make referrals and help coordinate community support services



SCHOOL PSYCHOLOGIST'S ROLE

School Psychologists work with teachers to:

- identify and resolve academic barriers to learning
- design and implement student progress monitoring systems
- design and implement academic and behavioral interventions
- support effective individualized instruction
- create positive classroom environments
- motivate all students to engage in learning

School Psychologists work with community providers to:

- coordinate the delivery of services to students and their families in and outside of school
- help students transition to and from school and community learning environments, such as residential treatment or juvenile justice programs

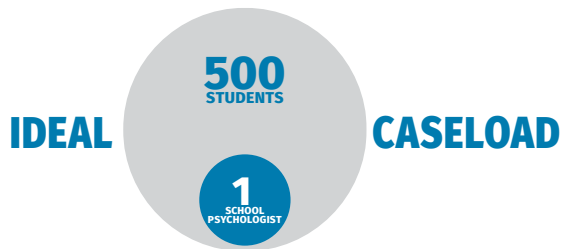
School Psychologists work with administrators to:

- collect and analyze data related to school improvement, student outcomes, and accountability requirements
- implement school-wide prevention programs that help maintain positive school climates conducive to learning
- promote school policies and practices that ensure the safety of all students by reducing school violence, bullying, and harassment
- respond to crises by providing leadership, direct services, and coordination with needed community services
- design, implement, and garner support for comprehensive school mental health programming

Where School Psychologists work:

The majority of school psychologists work in schools; however they may practice in a variety of settings including:

- Public and private schools
- Universities
- School-based health and mental health centers
- Community-based day-treatment or residential clinics and hospitals
- Juvenile justice centers
- Private practice



APPROPRIATE AND INAPPROPRIATE ACTIVITIES FOR SCHOOL PSYCHOLOGISTS

Appropriate Activities for School Psychologists

- consult and collaborate with teachers to support classroom engagement, management, and academic factors important for student success
- analyze disaggregated schoolwide data to support academic growth of all students
- provide short-term individual and small-group counseling/mental health supports to students
- consult with the school principal to identify and resolve student issues, needs and problems
- provide professional development to teachers and staff regarding student academic, behavioral, and social-emotional needs
- advocate for students at individual education plan meetings, student study teams and school attendance review boards, as necessary

Inappropriate Activities for School Psychologists

- maintain student records
- cover classes when teachers are absent or to create teacher planning time
- supervise classrooms or common areas
- keep clerical records
- assist with duties in the principal's office
- coordinate school-wide individual education plans, student study teams, response to intervention plans, MTSS and school attendance review boards
- student discipline