

SCHOOL PSYCHOLOGICAL SERVICES

Primary Goal: To conduct psycho-educational evaluations for students who are thought to have academic and or behavioral needs requiring specially designed instruction, as well as providing consultation and support to school district personnel and parents.

Program Description:

School psychological services include psycho-educational evaluations, consultation, direct intervention and counseling services for students enrolled in special education classes in school district and intermediate unit programs as needed. Services are provided by individuals certified as school psychologists. Services include the development of evaluation reports, review of reevaluation reports with additional data as needed and recommendations for individual educational program planning and direct related psychological services such as behavior interventions as necessary.

Program Features:

- Consultation/collaboration with district and or IU staff
- Conduct evaluations
- In-service training to district personnel
- Participate in due process proceeding
- Participate in screening teams
- Curriculum based assessment
- Parent communication
- Resource for parents
- Participate in reevaluation process

The National Association of School Psychologists (NASP) website notes the following:

School Psychologists training builds a broad range of skills that enable them to:

- . Work collaboratively with students, parents, teachers, and other professionals.
- .Use problem solving approaches to address student issues.
- .Improve school practices and policies to reduce impediments to student achievement.
- .Exhibit strong team members and leadership skills.
- .Promote appreciation and support for human diversity.
- .Employ good interpersonal and communication skills.
- .Demonstrate the highest standards for ethical and professional behavior.

What School Psychologists Do:

School Psychologists work to find the best solution for each student and situation and use different strategies to address student needs and to improve school and district-wide support systems.

School psychologists work with students individually and in groups. They also develop programs to train teachers and parents regarding effective teaching and learning strategies, effective techniques to manage behavior at home and in the classroom, working with students with disabilities or with special talents, abuse of drugs and other substances, and preventing and managing crises.

In addition School psychologists provide the following services:

Consultation:

Collaborate with teachers, parents and administrators to find effective solutions to learning and behavioral problems.

Help others understand child development and how it affects learning and behavior.

Strengthen working relationships between teachers, parents, and service providers in the community.

Evaluation:

Evaluate eligibility for special services.

Assess academic skills and aptitude for learning.

Determine social-emotional development and mental health status.

Evaluate learning environments.

Intervention:

Provide psychological counseling to help resolve interpersonal or family problems that interfere with school performance.

Work directly with children and their families to help resolve problems in adjustment and learning.

Provide training in social skills and anger management.

Help families and schools manage crises such as death, illness, or community

trauma.

Prevention:

Design programs for children at risk of failing at school.

Promote tolerance, understanding and appreciation of diversity within the school community.

Develop programs to make schools safer and more effective learning environments.

Collaborate with school staff and community agencies to provide services directed at improving psychological and physical health.

Develop partnership with parents and teachers to promote healthy school environments.

Research and Planning:

Evaluate the effectiveness of academic and behavior management programs.

Identify and implement programs and strategies to improve schools.

Use evidence-based research to develop and/or recommend effective interventions.