

**Association of School
Psychologists of Pennsylvania**

Promoting best practices in school psychology

May 9, 2023

Contact: Amber Sessoms, Ed.D. | ASPP President | amber@aninclination.com

**Pennsylvania Psychological Association Honors Dr. David Lillenstein with
Distinguished Contributions to School Psychology Award**

The Pennsylvania Psychological Association (PPA) has selected Association of School Psychologists of Pennsylvania (ASPP) member Dr. David Lillenstein, NCSP, to receive the 2023 PPA Distinguished Contributions to School Psychology Award. Dr. Lillenstein is a school psychologist at the Derry Township School District at the Hershey High School. He also works at the district level with the emotional and gifted support programs.

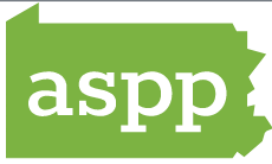
This PPA award is given to members of the PPA who have contributed significant research in the field of child, adolescent, school, or educational psychology; have contributed significant public service to children, families, or schools; have made major contributions to the field of assessment; have made significant contributions in the media; have advocated politically for children, families, or schools; have been a voice advocating for school psychologists in Pennsylvania; and/or have made significant contributions to PPA.



Through Dr. Lillenstein’s work as a practitioner, he has demonstrated an outstanding commitment to public service for students, schools, and school psychologists. He exemplifies the comprehensive role of the school psychologist, moving beyond the traditional “test and place” role. In collaboration with his colleagues within his district, Dr. Lillenstein has facilitated the district’s adoption of multi-tiered systems of support (MTSS) for both behavior and academics. These frameworks allow for prevention and intervention efforts to promote student mental health and academic success while reducing the likelihood of students needing more intensive behavioral or academic interventions. Dr. Lillenstein devotes his time annually to supervising school psychology trainees in their implementation of these systems-level practices. For his work as a supervisor, Dr. Lillenstein has earned the distinction of Model School Psychology Intern Supervisor by the National Association of School Psychologists (NASP).

Dr. Lillenstein has also served in a variety of leadership roles through which he proves to be an exceptional advocate for students and schools, as well as school psychologists and school psychology trainees. On the ASPP Board, he has served as the President (2015-2020), PPA Liaison (2006-Present), and Conference Chair (2015-2022). He is also currently the Pennsylvania Delegate to NASP, as well as the Department of Pupil Services School Psychology Section President with the Pennsylvania State Education Association (PSEA). Through his work in these roles, Dr. Lillenstein has collaborated with colleagues from related mental health and education fields across Pennsylvania to lobby legislators for improved mental health services in schools. Most recently, Dr. Lillenstein has focused on improving services provided to students by reducing ratios of

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



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students to school psychologists and other mental health and health professionals in schools, and accessing funding for trainees. His advocacy was integral to the passing of a bill in 2022 that allocated state funding for school-based interns in school psychology and other mental health fields. For all of this work, Dr. Lillenstein has received recognition in the form of multiple awards, including the NASP 2023 Government and Professional Relations Outstanding Advocate Award, and the 2019 Indiana University of Pennsylvania College of Education and Communications Impact Award and Alumni Scholar Award.

ASPP is proud of Dr. Lillenstein and the well-deserved appreciation and recognition that he is receiving from the psychologists of Pennsylvania. Dr. Lillenstein is an incredible practitioner and advocate whose outstanding leadership and exemplary service benefits the students, schools, and school psychologists across Pennsylvania.