



Association of School  
Psychologists of Pennsylvania  
Promoting best practices in school psychology.

***Student-to-School Psychologist Ratios***  
**Association of School Psychologists of Pennsylvania**  
**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE (September 13, 2019)**

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I am writing on behalf of the Association of School Psychologists of Pennsylvania (ASPP) in recognition of former Vice President Joe Biden's statement during the September 12, 2019, debate regarding student-to-school psychologist ratios across the nation. Current ratios of school psychologists across the country are approximately 1500 students to 1 school psychologist. The National Association of School Psychologists (NASP) recommends a much smaller ratio of 500 to 700 students per school psychologist. These smaller ratios are necessary for school psychologists to have the time and resources to provide comprehensive services that include prevention and intervention for students' mental health needs.

School psychologists are uniquely equipped, with backgrounds in both education and mental health. When not overtaxed with too large of a student population to serve, school psychologists are able to provide sorely needed prevention and intervention practices to promote prosocial behavior and support mental health. Trained to function within the school setting, school-based school psychologists work with students, teachers, administrators, and families to prevent problem behaviors and reduce the stress, anxiety, depression, and other mental health challenges commonly experienced by children and adolescents.

We urge that you continue to spread awareness of the poor school psychology ratios across our nation, as recognized by former Vice President Joe Biden. Please support us and our students by keeping this issue at the forefront of discussions about improving our youth's mental health.

