

# Pennsylvania Staffing Guide Aligned with NASP Practice Model

Developed by the Association of School Psychologists of Pennsylvania

## Certification Staffing Assignment SCHOOL PSYCHOLOGIST Pre-Kindergarten-12

The School Psychologist certification qualifies the individual to provide of school psychological services for all students in grades pre-Kindergarten-12.

### Grade Level Scope of Certificate:

A person holding a valid PA certificate as a School Psychologist is qualified to serve in grades pre-Kindergarten through 12.

### Certification Assignment

#### Improve Academic Achievement

- Conduct psychological and academic assessments
- Consult with school teams to individualize instruction and interventions
- Promote and facilitate effective management of student and classroom behavior
- Assist school teams in monitoring student progress through the collection and interpretation of student and classroom data

#### Promote Positive Behavior and Mental Health

- Provide students with expectations and tools, which improve communication and social skills and reinforce positive coping skills and resilience
- Promote positive education mental health practices in resolving individual, group, and system level challenges in school mental health related areas
- Assess student emotional and behavioral needs and subsequently inform appropriate supports
- Provide individual and group counseling as necessary or advisable
- Promote understanding of developmental expectations of children with diverse characteristics, cultures, linguistic, and economic backgrounds

#### Support Diverse Learners

- Assess diverse learning needs and implement appropriate supports and/or services
- Make appropriate educationally relevant identifications based on the information and data gathered as a part of the multidisciplinary team process. Based on this process, a diagnostic recommendation is made to the team for the purposes of determining the classification/identification of a student for special education including the Chapters 14, 15 and 16 Pennsylvania Code Eligible Disability Categories of:
  - Autism
  - Emotional Disturbance
  - Intellectual Disability
  - Specific Learning Disability (including but not limited to Dyslexia, Dyscalculia and Dysgraphia)
  - Traumatic Brain Injury
  - Mentally Gifted
  - Multiple Disabilities
  - Other Health Impairment (including but not limited to ADHD)
- Provide consultation to administrators, teachers, caregivers, students, and independent agencies on behalf of students provided special education, gifted education, or services to protected students with disabilities
- Provide culturally responsive services to students and families from diverse backgrounds
- Provide consultation regarding curricula and instructional modification and adaptation; classroom or facility adjustments to improve student engagement and learning

#### Create Safe, Positive School Climates

- Provide consultation and direct services, which promote social-emotional functioning and learning for students with or without disabilities from diverse backgrounds

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- Assess and improve school climate and school connectedness
- Provide inclusive practices for all students, caregivers, and staff
- Implement and reinforce school-wide positive behavioral supports, positive discipline, and restorative justice
- Provide crisis prevention, intervention, and post-vention services
- Support efforts to ensure that schools are safe and inclusive learning environments for all students, family members, and school staff with diverse characteristics, cultures, linguistic, and economic backgrounds including those who are transgender or gender diverse

### Strengthen Family-School Partnerships

- Help families understand their child's learning and mental health needs taking into account their diverse characteristics, cultures, and linguistic backgrounds
- Assist families and students in navigating special education processes or transitioning between school and community learning environments
- Connect families with community service providers when necessary
- Enhance staff understanding and responsiveness to diverse cultures and backgrounds
- Create safe, healthy, and supportive learning environments for all students that strengthen connections between home and school
- Collaborate with teachers and caregivers to plan appropriate research-based instructional and intervention strategies

### Improve School-Wide Assessment and Accountability

- Generate and interpret useful student and school outcome data
- Collect and analyze data on risk and protective factors related to student outcomes
- Plan services at the district, building, classroom, and individual levels
- Assist teams in ensuring fidelity of instructional, intervention, and assessment practices
- Assist teams in utilizing assessment data for the purpose of selecting and determining the effectiveness of instruction and intervention
- Assist teams in monitoring individual student and group progress in academics and behavior and social-emotional functioning

### Exemplify Professional Standards and Promote Professional Development

- Demonstrate professional ethics; model confidentiality of student and staff information
- Provide school staff professional development
- Provide training opportunities and skill development for caregivers
- Contribute to an integrated and effective program of pupil services as part of a multidisciplinary team
- Develop and enact a plan for professional growth

### Coordinate Within and Beyond Educational Entity

- Coordinate the provision of special services and assessments through providers such as but not limited to the intermediate unit, consortium, neighboring districts, and/or other providers.
- Coordinate the multidisciplinary team process in conjunction with evaluation and re-evaluation
- Coordinate special education identification procedures to comply with current federal and state standards
- Provide referral and liaison services to mental health agencies, medical specialists, and private providers

### Professional and Organizational Responsibilities

- Communicate within the educational community
- Perform related duties as assigned by administration
- Contribute to building and district success
- Maintain membership in national and state professional organizations
- Attend conferences and trainings provided by state and national professional organizations
- Maintain professional certification

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### Professional Development

- Develop and enact a professional plan for growth
- Establish and meet professional goals
- Maintain certification in approved emergency safety physical interventions

### Special Considerations:

An educator certified in this field may provide school staff development services regarding their collegial studies/skills.

### Certificate Clarification:

Former PA public school certificates, which are applicable for practice in public schools include the following: County School Psychologist.

### Restrictions:

When a school district employs an individual in the job title “school psychologist,” this person must be a certified school psychologist whether employed as a professional or temporary professional to fulfill the duties and functions described above.

Counseling performed by school psychologists shall be primarily of a behavioral modification or psychological nature since certified school counselors are also authorized to engage in such educational, vocational, and personal counseling as facilitates or clarifies individual needs and alternatives related to educational choice and/or personal development.

The administration of individual tests of intelligence, or individual or group tests of behavioral tendencies, psychological and emotional adjustment, etc., which require specialized and advanced training for administration, analysis, and interpretation are reserved to certified school psychologists.

The School Psychologist certificate does not qualify the holder to perform administrative duties and functions reserved for individuals holding administrative certificates or to any single area of special education services for which he/she does not hold such a certificate.