

What is a School Psychologist?

School psychologists are highly trained in both psychology and education. Their training emphasizes preparation in counseling and educational interventions, child development, learning, behavior, motivation, curriculum and instruction, assessment, and school law. They help children and youth succeed academically, socially, emotionally, and behaviorally. They tailor their services to the individual needs of each youth. To address social-emotional needs, they provide services to help them access the educational curriculum. They work collaboratively with school staff, parents and other professionals to create a safe, healthy, and supportive learning environment.



How can they help?

School psychologists can help children and adolescents when they are:

- Fearful about attending school
- Struggling with time management, study, or organizational skills
- Lacking the ability to focus on school performance as a result of life stressors
- Questioning their aptitudes or abilities
- Feeling sad, unhappy, or contemplating self-harm



School Psychologist's Primary Duties and Responsibilities



- **Conduct psycho-educational assessments** and develop case studies of individual students to determine their educational needs and social behavior. When serving bilingual students, assessments will be conducted in the students' native language as mandated by law.
- **Interpret findings of individual case studies** to principals, teachers, parents, students, Individual Education Program (IEP) team members, and others directly concerned with the welfare of students.
- **Evaluate the results of tests** in relation to a student's cultural, environmental, and language background.
- **Participate in IEP meetings** to assist the team in determining eligibility for special education services, if applicable, discuss appropriate educational placement and propose supports, as needed. In addition, school psychologists may offer input regarding positive behavioral intervention strategies, collaborate with the development of Behavior Support Plans or Functional Behavior Assessments.
- **Counsel students** individually or in groups to assist them with academic achievement, problem solving, and social-emotional adjustment.



- **Collaborate with teachers and staff** regarding pre-referral intervention strategies for academic and social-emotional achievement. Collaborate with community agencies to facilitate service provision for students and families.

- **Consult with parents** to facilitate communication between home and school. Help parents understand their child's unique needs, and offer strategies to support overall student success in school.



- **Provide professional development** opportunities for teachers, staff, parents, and community members on a variety of topics which may include pre-referral interventions, strategies for behavior modification, anti-bullying programs, working with students with disabilities and many more.

- **Participate in prevention and intervention activities** through the Student Success Team (SST). By promoting pre-referral intervention supports and assisting with progress monitoring, school psychologists are an integral component in maximizing students' educational success. They provide information to school staff and parents regarding developmental expectations in language/communication, social skills, behavior and cognitive abilities as they relate to learning.

