

Psychologist Frequently Asked Questions

What is a School Psychologist?

School psychologists are uniquely qualified members of school teams that support students' ability to learn and teachers' ability to teach. They apply expertise in mental health, learning and behavior, to help children and youth succeed academically, socially, behaviorally, and emotionally. School psychologists partner with families, teachers, school administrators, and other professionals to create safe, healthy, and supportive learning environments that strengthen connections between home, school and the community.

What training do School Psychologists receive?

School psychologists have specialized advanced graduate preparation that includes coursework and practical experiences relevant to both psychology and education. School psychologists must be certified and/or licensed by the state in which they work. They also may be nationally certified by the National School Psychology Certification Board (NSPCB).

What do School Psychologists do?

Consultation Services: School psychologists provide healthy and effective alternatives to teachers, parents, and administrators about problems in learning and behavior. Help others understand child development and how it affects learning and behavior and strengthen working relationships between educators, parents, and community services.

Complete Assessments: These assessments include academic skills, learning aptitude, cognitive processes, adaptive/functional life skills, social and emotional development, learning environments and school climate and assist in determining eligibility for special education services.

Develop Interventions: School psychologists work face-to-face with children and families to help solve conflict and problems in learning and adjustments. They provide psychologist counseling for children and families, social skills training, behavior management as well as other strategies to help families and schools deal with crises, such as separation or loss.

Engage in Prevention Activities: School psychologists identify potential learning difficulties and factors that put children at risk and offer suggestions/interventions for parents and teachers to cope with disruptive behavior, help foster tolerance, understanding and appreciation of diversity in the school community as well as develop school-wide initiatives to make school safer and more effective.

Educate: School psychologists provide education on a variety of topics including teacher and learning strategies, classroom management techniques, working with students who have disability or exceptionalities, substance abuse and crisis management.

Why do children need School Psychologists?

All children and youth can face problems from time to time related to learning, social relationships, making difficult decisions, or managing emotions such as feeling depressed, anxious, worried, or isolated. School psychologists help students, families, educators, and members of the community

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understand and resolve both long-term, chronic problems, and short-term issues that students may face. They are a highly skilled and ready resource in the effort to ensure that all children and youth thrive in school, at home, and in life.

How do I contact a School Psychologists?

School Psychologist can be reached by inquiring at the school directly, the district office or locating contact information on the school or district website. Every school has access to services offered by a school psychologist, although some School Psychologist serve multiple school so they may not be at a particular school every day.