

Certified School Psychologists

Certified School Psychologists support students' ability to learn and teachers' ability to teach.

CERTIFIED SCHOOL PSYCHOLOGISTS ARE EXPERTS IN:



Learning

Mental Health

Behavior

Student Support

CERTIFIED SCHOOL PSYCHOLOGISTS PROVIDE:

- ✓ Help for students to **understand and cope** with complex emotions
- ✓ **Academic, behavioral, and mental health supports** for struggling students and diverse learners
- ✓ **Crisis prevention** through early intervention and relationship building as well as post-crisis response and support
- ✓ Evaluation, assessment, and accommodation to **help all students to succeed**
- ✓ **Consultation and collaboration** between the school community and families
- ✓ School wide data-based decision-making
- ✓ Safe and supportive learning environments, promoting student well-being and achievement



RECOMMENDED RATIO:

1 school psychologist per **500-700** students

CURRENT RATIO IN PA:

1 school psychologist per **1,164** students on average*

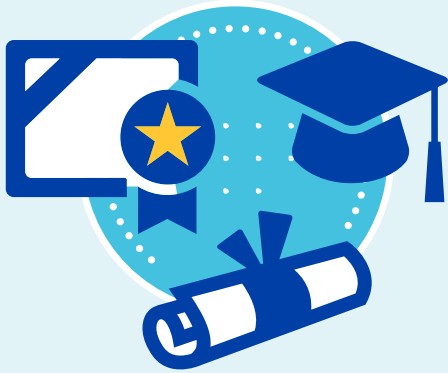
Close to **40%** of LEAs reported employing **ZERO** certified school psychologists

*2018 Pennsylvania School Safety Report – Governor and Attorney General's Task Force report PA Department of Education, <https://www.governor.pa.gov/wp-content/uploads/2018/08/20180827-Gov-Office-School-Safety-Report-2018.pdf>

Adapted with permission from NASP, the National Association of School Psychologists www.nasponline.org.

Certified School Psychologists

Certified School Psychologists are highly trained educators, eager to help today's students reach their full potentials.



- ✓ **Master's Degree** in School Psychology
- ✓ Internship of at least **1,000** hours
- ✓ A minimum of **420** hours of field experience in a school
- ✓ **180** continuing education hours every five years

Certified School Psychologists are currently **not mandated** in PA schools, yet serve an increasingly **important role** in serving the **mental health needs of today's students**, and make our **schools and communities safer**. Certified School Psychologists are an integral part of the educational and student wellness team.

WITHOUT ADEQUATE STAFFING, CERTIFIED SCHOOL PSYCHOLOGISTS MUST:

Act as testing machines, racing to complete evaluations within tightly prescribed time frames

Struggle to truly get to know their entire student community, making it difficult to spot inconsistencies and emerging problems

Perform more reactive services, rather than using their knowledge of the school community and behavioral health to implement positive behavior and mental health practices

Focus their resources on a small number of students with the most immediate needs, potentially overlooking others who may be struggling in more subtle ways



Certified School Psychologists are **PASSIONATE, CARING PROFESSIONALS** who want to provide the best possible care to students. It's time to **INVEST IN OUR STUDENTS** and give them the support they need to **SUCCEED**.