

School Psychologists help students thrive

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.



OSPA's purpose is to promote constructive action in meeting the educational and mental health needs of children and youth; encourage the writing, publication and distribution of information contributing to the extension and enhancement of the body of knowledge within the field; provide opportunities for the professional growth of school psychologists; promote the advancement of ethical, legal and technical standards of professional school psychology; and promote the profession of school psychology.

..OHIO SCHOOL PSYCHOLOGISTS ASSOCIATION..

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Who are.....
**SCHOOL
PSYCHOLOGISTS?**
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SCHOOL PSYCHOLOGISTS

provide direct support and interventions to students, families and other school professionals; work with school administrators to improve schoolwide practices and policies; and collaborate with community providers to coordinate needed services.

- Conduct psychological and academic assessments and collect and interpret student and classroom data;
- Support teachers in providing individualized instruction and interventions and progress monitoring;
- Promote positive student and classroom behavior while encouraging student motivation/engagement;
- Improve students' development, including communication, social skills and social-emotional learning;
- Assess students' emotional and behavioral needs; provide individual/group counseling;
- Promote problem-solving, anger management, resilience and conflict resolution;
- Provide individual and group counseling; coordinate services with community-based providers;
- Provide culturally responsive services to students and families from diverse backgrounds;
- Assess diverse learning needs and modify or adapt curricula and instruction;

- Plan appropriate individualized education programs for students with disabilities;
- Monitor and effectively communicate with parents about student progress;
- Implement schoolwide positive behavioral supports, positive discipline and restorative justice;
- Assess school climate and improve school connectedness;
- Identify at-risk students and school vulnerabilities; prevent bullying and other forms of violence;
- Provide crisis prevention and intervention services;
- Help families understand children's learning and emotional needs;
- Connect families with community service providers when necessary;
- Enhance staff understanding of and responsiveness to diverse cultures and backgrounds;
- Assist in navigating special education processes;
- Generate, collect and interpret useful student and school outcomes data;
- Collect and analyze data on risk and protective factors related to student outcomes;
- Plan services at the district, building, classroom and individual levels.

WHAT TRAINING DO SCHOOL PSYCHS HAVE?

Ohio Department of Education licensure requirements include the following: a master's or Education Specialist (Ed.S.) degree in school psychology; a 1200-hour internship; and passing the Praxis School Psychologist exam.

School psychologists must be credentialed by the state in which they work. They also may be nationally certified by the National School Psychology Certification Board (NSPCB).

WHERE DO SCHOOL PSYCHS WORK?

The vast majority of school psychologists work in K-12 public schools. They also provide services in a variety of other settings, including:

- Private schools
- Preschools
- School district administration offices
- Universities
- School-based health and mental health centers
- Community-based day treatment or residential clinics and hospitals
- Juvenile justice programs
- Independent private practice

WHY DO WE NEED SCHOOL PSYCHS?

All children and youth can face problems from time to time related to learning, social relationships, making difficult decisions, or managing emotions such as depression, anxiety, worry, or isolation. School psychologists help students, families, educators, and community members understand and resolve both long-term, chronic problems and short-term issues that students may face. They understand how these issues affect learning, behavior, well-being, and school engagement. School psychologists are highly skilled and ready resources in the effort to ensure all children and youth thrive in school, at home, and in life.