Georgia Association of School Psychologists

Caring for children since 1970

School Psychologists in Georgia -Fast Facts

How many school psychologists work in Georgia's schools?

- There are currently around 800 school psychologists available to serve the 1.76 million students in Georgia's schools. School psychologists can serve any PK-12 students in Georgia in general and special education as needs arise.

What are the current ratios and trends for school psychologist positions?

- The state funding ratio for school psychologist services is 1:2475 and has remained at this level for 25 years. NASP (National Association of School Psychologists) service model recommends a ratio of 1:700 or lower. Moreover, a GASP survey indicated that over 30% of the current workforce are eligible for retirement within 3 years suggesting an impending school psychologist workforce shortage.

What roles do school psychologists have in the schools?

- School psychologists have a variety of roles which can be dependent on the needs of the school system in which they serve. Traditionally, school psychologists have been associated with the specific roles of assessment, consultation, direct services, program planning & implementation and research.

- However, the NASP school psychological services model (2010) and Georgia's University System training programs have reflected 10 broad domains in which the school psychologist is most effective. In addition to the above traditional roles, examples of additional roles include crisis intervention, mental health services, system level and school level consultations, teacher/ parent trainings, functional behavioral assessments, 504s, and data/ program analysis and decision making.

How much training is required to become a school psychologist?

- Due to the rigor of the position, school psychologists have the highest training requirement for an entry level position in the school system (Educational Specialist Degree= 30+ hours past a Masters degree and 1200 hours internship).

Why do we need school psychologists? - Examples of how we help in schools-

- Improve academic engagement and achievement
- Help promote graduation (we follow some students from Pre-K to 12th gr)
- Help facilitate effective intervention & instruction
- Support positive behavior and socially successful students (PBIS resource)
- Support diverse learners
- Help create safe, positive school climates
- Strengthen family-school-community partnerships
- Improve assessment and accountability practices

Visit www.gaspnet.org for more information about school psychologists   Revised January 2017