



What You Need to Know About School Psychologists

We can be part of the solution, no matter the problem.

Tap your school psychologist as a resource to help all students learn.

1 School psychologists are a unique, essential, and valuable part of the school team.

- We are the only professionals trained to evaluate and help with the academic, cognitive, *and* social-emotional problems that many students face.
- Working with administrators and staff, we can lead efforts to reduce behavior problems and improve school climate so that all students can learn.

- We are the school team member best prepared to collect and evaluate individual and school-wide data to improve behavior and learning.
- We work to ensure that students who are culturally and linguistically diverse are not over-identified for special education.
- We help schools connect to physical and mental health community resources to improve outcomes for students and families.

- *Tackling issues early, with the help of your school psychologist, is the best way to prevent more severe problems.*

2 In today's tough economic climate, your school psychologist is a potentially untapped resource.

- We can help teachers to address instructional and behavior problems individually and manage issues related to increased class size.
- We are an essential part of the school team that is dedicated to providing high quality instruction for all students.

- We are experts in behavioral interventions for school safety and effective discipline strategies.
- We are trained to lead school response efforts during times of crisis. (Examples: 9/11, economic crisis).
- We can work with students and their families to reduce the number of demands placed on administrators and teachers.

- *Tap your school psychologist to support students and staff under stress; help manage larger class sizes; implement research-based strategies to meet achievement goals.*

3 Support the well-being of your school/district by supporting school psychologists' role and funding.

- We can help schools maintain academic progress by reducing social-emotional and behavioral problems through school-wide prevention strategies.

- We are an all-school resource, working with school improvement teams to design and implement student support services that produce long-term benefits for all students.
- Programs that evaluate and address special education remain a high priority for federal and state leaders (e.g. \$13.5 billion in funding for special education was authorized as part of the economic stimulus plan.)

- *Now more than ever, school administrators need to call on their school psychologists to help address the increased demands for services to support learning.*