Caring for Children in Georgia since 1970

There are approximately 750 School Psychologists to serve 1.7 million public school children.

School Psychologists serve all children from Pre–Kindergarten through 12th grade.
School Psychologist Training

School Psychologists have the **highest training requirement for entry level** in the school system.

Typically is an Educational Specialist Degree (EdS or equivalent), which is equivalent to a **Master's Degree plus 30 hours**

School Psychologists help with

- Improve academic **engagement** and **achievement**
- Help **promote graduation**
- Facilitate **effective** instruction
- Support **positive behavior** and socially **successful** students (PBIS resource)
- Support **diverse learners**
- Create **safe**, positive **school** climates
- Strengthen **family–school–community** partnerships
- Improve **assessment** and **accountability**
Current Funding Level for School Psychologist?

The funding level is 1:2475 and has remained at this level for 22 years. The National Association of School Psychologists recommends a ratio of 1:1000. All the states around Georgia are lower in ratio!

School Psych. Workforce Trends?

Over 25% approaching retirement!

Statewide survey of school psychologists in 2010 noted 25% were in the retirement window.

A 2013 statewide survey* reflected 32% being eligible to retire within 5 years.

Of those who reported, 22% indicated being eligible for retirement in less than 3 years!!

(*GASP 2013 survey n=525, 35.8% response rate)
Critical Shortage Field

School Psychology Training Programs in Georgia may need to be put on the workforce shortage field listing help to bolster enrollments and to accommodate the approaching large retirement segment.

VSU training program is dissolving adding pressure to the other 3 state training programs.

Current Services in the Schools

Trend Data noted an increase in per psychologist consultations and assessments over the last 5 years.

Meanwhile, there has been an overall decline of school psychologists by 18% over the same period!
Negative Trend for Services

School Psychologists Funded Positions
School Years (SY) 2008–2011 open.gov

Reported Consults in Schools

Total Contacts Reported
Consultations per School Psychologist

Annual Consults per School Psychologist has increased!

Evaluations Per School Psychologist
(Full & Partial Evals have increased)
School Psychologists Roles

Roles vary and are based on a system needs

Some roles include:

~Assessment, ~Consultation, ~Direct Services,
~Program Planning and Implementation,
~Research, ~Mental Health, ~Crisis Intervention,
~In-Service Trainings to teachers and administrators,
~Functional Behavior Assessments, ~Data and Program Analysis

Some Areas of Involvement

Percent Reporting Some to Total Involvement

Teacher Consultation – (88%)
Grade Level Consultation – (52%)
Administrative Consultation – (65%)
Parent Consultation – (82%)

Parent–Community Liaison – (49%)
Admin–Community Liaison – (34%)
Some Areas of Involvement

Percent Reporting *Some to Total* Involvement

**Data-Based Analytics** – (74%)

**Pyramid of Intervention** (academic or behavior)
- T1 or T2 – (56%)
- T3 or T4 – (89%)

**Academic Interventions** – Develop/ Implement (61%)
**Behavior Interventions** – Develop/ Implement (67%)
**Schoolwide PBIS** – Develop/ Implement (14%)

What is our involvement with Emotional Crises?

Over the last 5 years **82%** of school psychologists reported participating on a **crisis team** within a school they serve.

Over the **last 5 years**, 78% of school psychologists reported being involved with crises cases of depression/ anxiety/ or eating disorder with **33% report handling 6+ cases**.
Suicide Crisis Involvement

Over a school psychologists career, 7 out of 10 reported dealing with crises involving suicidal threats or interventions.

Within the last 5 years, 72% reported dealing with at least one suicidal prevention/intervention case with 24% reported (1 in 4 school psych’s) involvement in 6+ cases.

The Take Away

School Psychologists

- Have varied roles
- Have a large cohort approaching retirement age
- State funding is stagnant
- Are doing more with less
- Are involved at all levels
- Deal with all stakeholders
- Seemingly deal with more complex issues
- Concentrate services on more significant issues
- Deal with school wide and individual crises
School Psychologists are working hard for Georgia’s Children!

We need & appreciate your support!

GASP– Caring for Georgia’s Children since 1970