



## School Psychologists Working in Georgia's Schools

*Caring for Children in Georgia since 1970*

### Current Status of School Psychologists in Georgia ?

There are approximately **750** School

Psychologists to serve **1.7 million**  
public school children.

School Psychologists **serve all children**  
from Pre-Kindergarten through 12<sup>th</sup> 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.

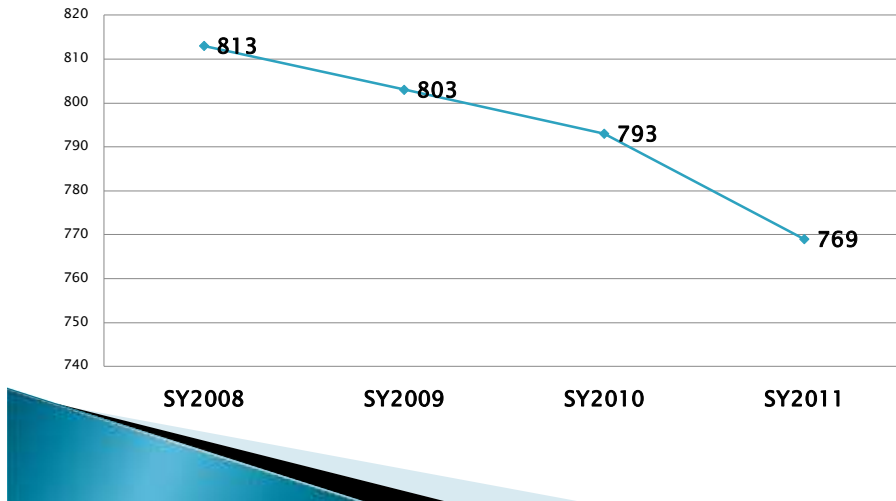
Meanwhile, there has been an **overall decline of school psychologists by 18%** over the same period!



## Negative Trend for Services

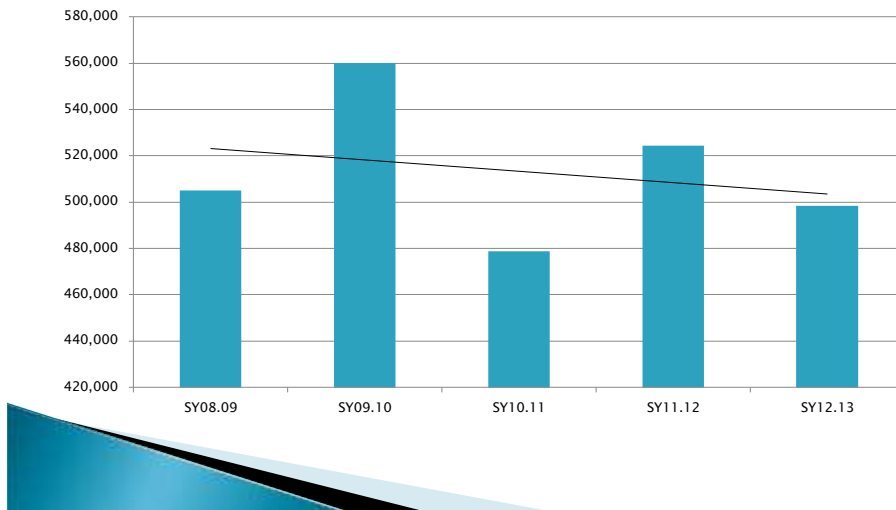
### School Psychologists Funded Positions

School Years (SY) 2008–2011 open.gov



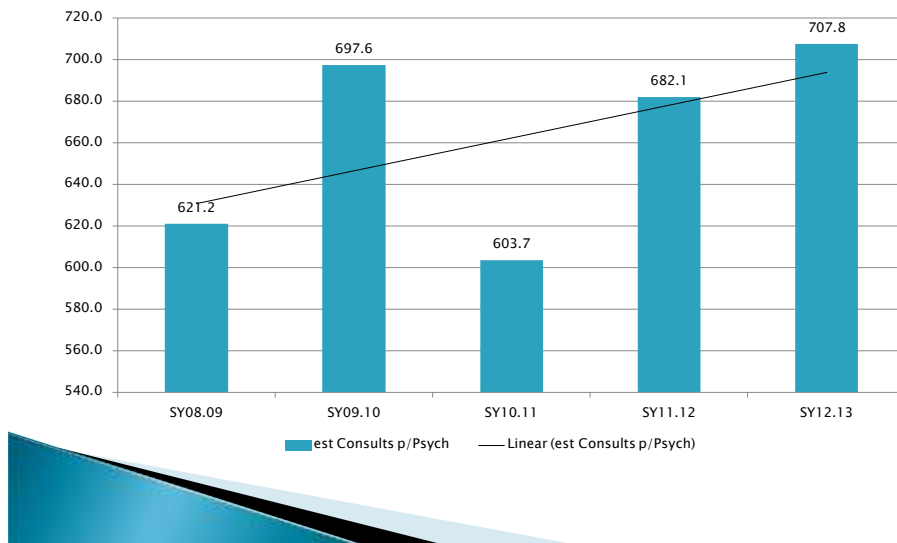
## Reported Consults in Schools

### Total Contacts Reported

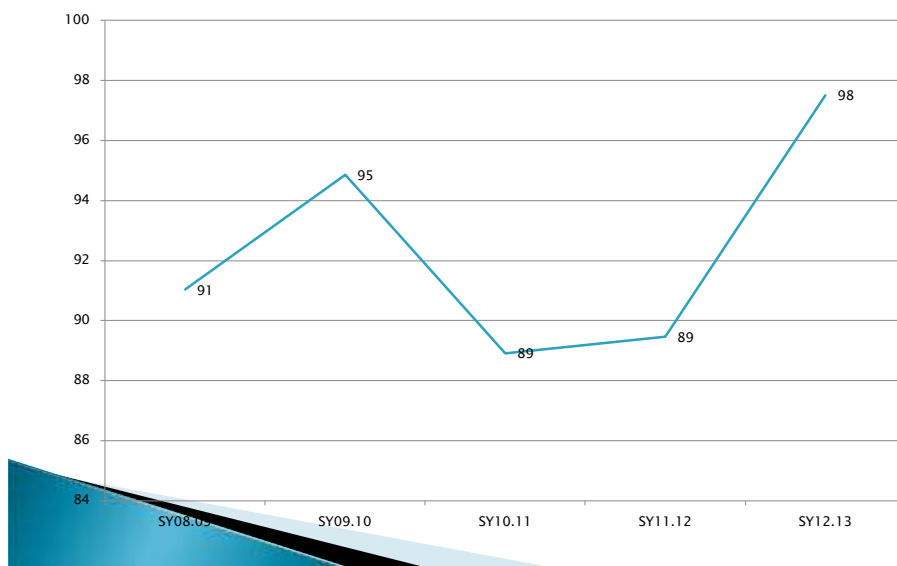


## Consultations per School Psychologist

**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*

