

School Psychologist

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Please describe the area of psychology you practice.

School Psychologists are mental health professionals with an intimate knowledge of learning, development, and behavior. They are unique in that they have expertise in both education and mental health. Although their primary roles include assessment, intervention, and consultation, there are many other areas that school psychologists address, such as counseling. School psychologists use their knowledge to support schools, administrators, families, students, faculty and staff to enhance the academic and social functioning of all students.

How do I become a school psychologist?

1

High School
Diploma

2

Undergraduate degree
in education, psychology,
or other related major

3

Graduate training
Education Specialist (Ed.S.),
Master's in Education (M.Ed.),
or
Doctorate in School
Psychology (Ph.D. or Psy.D.)



What does a school psychologist do?

- **Improve academic achievement**
 - Conduct psychological and academic assessments
 - Individualize instruction and interventions
 - Manage individual student and classroom behavior
- **Create safe, positive school climates**
 - Support social-emotional learning
 - Implement school-wide positive and behavioral supports
 - Encourage community and school partnerships
- **Strengthen family-school partnerships**
 - Help families understand their child's learning and mental health needs
 - Enhance staff responsiveness to diverse cultures and backgrounds
 - Empower parents to advocate for their students
- **Improve school-wide assessment and accountability**
 - Generate and interpret useful student and school outcome data
 - Plan services at the district, building, classroom, and individual levels
 - Provide professional development for school personnel
- **Support diverse learners**
 - Advocate for culturally inclusive learning environments
 - Provide culturally responsive services to students and families
 - Plan appropriate special education programs for students with disabilities
- **Promote positive behavior and mental health**
 - Assess students' emotional and behavioral needs
 - Provide individual and group counseling
 - Connect students and families to community resources

Contact Us: earlycareer@apa.org

*For further resources, please click
[here](#) to check out our ECP website.*

