



School Psychology: A Profession and a Career

“There has never been a time when school psychologists suffered serious unemployment...”
(Fagan, 2007; p. 2070).

A School Psychologist is:

- A credentialed professional who integrates knowledge bases from mental health, human development, and learning to positively impact student learning outcomes.
- Focus on how social emotional issues, family problems, neurological factors, and mental illness affect learning
- Practice has changed over time based on influencing factors
 - Legislation (e.g., IDEIA, NCLB)
 - Litigation (e.g., class action law suits)
 - Advancements in the field (e.g., CHC Theory, Response to Intervention)
 - Social and cultural influences (e.g., bullying and violence in schools)

School Psychologists meet the needs of students through:

- Collaboration – team based decision making
- Consultation – with other educational professionals
- Assessment (e.g., behavioral, academic, social/emotional)
- Direct Interventions (counseling, psychoeducational groups, academic remediation)
- Training other professionals/ Professional Development
- Working with families (e.g., parent education)
- Crisis Response/Intervention (e.g., PREPaRE, CISM)
- Advocacy for children (local and system)

Practice Settings

- Public and private schools
- Private practice
- Colleges and universities
- Community mental health centers
- Institutional/residential facilities
- Pediatric clinics and hospitals
- Criminal justice system
- Public agencies

Mean Salaries of School Psychologists

Data based on 2004-2005 NASP membership survey

Practitioner (200 Day Contracts)		\$62,513
University Faculty		\$65,398
Administration		\$79,536
State Department		\$59,660