

Certification Staffing Assignment
SCHOOL PSYCHOLOGIST
Kindergarten-12

The School Psychologist involves the science or art of the knowledge and competence required in addressing the provision of school psychological services for all students in grades Kindergarten-12.

Grade Level Scope of Certificate:

A person holding a valid PA certificate as a School Psychologist is qualified to serve in grades Kindergarten through 12.

Certification Assignment:

An educator holding a valid PA certificate as a School Psychologist is qualified to perform the following duties and functions:

- Identify significant behavioral signs
- Verify behavioral patterns
- Analyze and diagnose atypical behavior
- Promote understanding of the developmental expectations of children as to increase learning and achievement, appropriate behavior, and social function
- Collect and interpret student-relevant data to assist school teams in identifying the nature of exceptionality and/or disability, as outlined in the PA School Code
- Make prescriptive recommendation for short-term and long-term remedial and modification procedures
- Identify learning and processing traits in individual students which can be used to design effective academic and behavioral interventions and promote increased student achievement
- Provide psychotherapy or psychoeducational counseling as necessary or advisable
- Assist in planning all therapeutic, remedial, or behavioral modification activities sponsored by the public school entity
- Contribute to an integrated and effective program of pupil personnel services as part of a multidisciplinary team
- Promote positive education mental health practices in resolving individual, group and system level problems in school mental health related areas
- Provide consultation to teachers, parents, and students on behalf of students receiving special education, gifted education or services to protected disabled students
- Provide consultation and direct services which promote social-emotional function and learning for disabled and non-disabled students
- Provide consultation and direct service on behalf of at-risk students requiring primary prevention programs and crisis intervention services.

Special Considerations:

An educator certified in this field may provide school staff development services regarding their collegial studies/skills.

CSPG No. 81
July 1, 2004

Certificate Clarification:

Former PA public school certificates, which are applicable for practice in public schools include the following: County School Psychologist.

Restrictions:

When a school district employs an individual in the job title “school psychologist,” this person must be a certified school psychologist whether employed as a professional or temporary professional to fulfill the duties and functions described above.

Counseling performed by school psychologists shall be primarily of a behavioral modification or psychological nature since certified guidance counselors are also authorized to engage in such educational, vocational, and personal counseling as facilitates or clarifies individual needs and alternatives related to educational choice and/or personal development.

The administration of individual tests of intelligence, or individual or group tests of behavioral tendencies, psychological and emotional adjustment, etc., which require specialized and advanced training for administration, analysis, and interpretation are reserved to certified school psychologists.

The School Psychologist certificate does not qualify the holder to perform administrative duties and functions reserved for individuals holding administrative certificates or to any single area of special education services for which he/she does not hold such a certificate.

References:

Program Specific Guidelines for School Psychologist Certification

PA Public School Code:	§1202
	§1212
	§1604
22 PA Code: Chapter 49:	§49.11
	§49.81
	§49.102-3
Chapter 14:	§14.123(a)
	§14.124(a)
Chapter 15:	§15.5
Chapter 16:	§16.22(d)
	§16.23

THIS REVISION SUPERSEDES ALL EARLIER CSPG'S CARRYING THIS NUMBER AND OR ADDRESSING THIS SUBJECT. PREVIOUS PRINTING DATES ON THIS SUBJECT: 1973, 3/75, 3/78, 2/82, 1/87