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*Enhancing the mental health and
educational competence of all children.*

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Evidence for the Positive Impact of School Psychological Services

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Improved Instruction and Learning

- School psychologists work with teachers to motivate all students to engage in learning^{1,2}, and interventions that foster students' engagement in school have been shown to reduce high school dropout (Reschly & Christenson, 2006; Sinclair, Christenson, Evelo, & Hurley, 1998) and improve academic performance (Catalano, Haggerty, Oesterle, Fleming, & Hawkins, 2004; Battistich, Schaps, & Wilson, 2004).
- School psychologists work with students and their families as part of a multidisciplinary team to evaluate eligibility for special education services and to design interventions^{3,4}, and research has revealed that the strategies they employ produce substantial positive impact on student outcomes (Forness, 2001).
- School psychologists work with teachers to design and implement academic and behavioral interventions^{5,6}, and interventions using positive behavior supports have been shown to improve academic performance and decrease behavior problems (Luiselli, Putnam, Handler, & Feinberg, 2005; Nelson, Martella, & Marchand-Martella, 2002).
- School psychologists provide instructional consultation for other educators on strategies and interventions for remedying barriers to learning^{7,8}, and evidence has shown that supporting teacher-reflective activities enables their teaching skills to grow and, subsequently, to improve student outcomes (Rosenfield, Silva, & Gravois, 2008).

Supporting Healthy Successful Students

- School psychologists work with administrators to design, implement, and garner support for comprehensive school mental health programming^{9,10}, and school mental health programs have been shown to improve educational outcomes by decreasing absences, decreasing discipline referrals, and increasing test scores (President's New Freedom Commission on Mental Health, 2003).
- School psychologists work with students and their families to support students' social, emotional, and behavioral health^{11,12}, and research has shown that students who receive this type of support achieve better academically in school (Fleming et al., 2005; Greenberg et al., 2003; Welsh, Parke, Widaman, & O'Neil, 2001; Zins, Bloodworth, Weissberg, & Walberg, 2004).

- School psychologists promote development of children’s communication and social skills, problem solving, anger management, self-regulation, self-determination, and optimism^{13,14}, and research has shown that children’s developmental competence is integral to their academic competence (Masten et al., 2005).
- School psychologists work with parents to encourage effective parenting and discipline strategies^{15,16}, and there is substantial research evidence for the effectiveness of interventions designed to prevent the development of aggressive and antisocial behavior and related problems (National Research Council and Institute of Medicine, 2009).

Creating Safe, Positive School Climates

- School psychologists work with teachers and administrators to create classroom environments and school climates that are conducive to learning^{17,18}, and research has shown that improving school climate is associated with increases in student performance in reading, writing, and mathematics, both in low- and high-performing schools (Hanson, Austin, & Lee-Bayha, 2004; Spier, Cai, & Osher, 2007; Spier, Cai, Osher, & Kendziora, 2007).
- School psychologists work with administrators to promote school policies and practices that ensure the safety of all students by reducing school violence, bullying, and harassment^{19,20}, and services provided by school psychologists support virtually every area of the lives of students, including school safety (Bear & Minke, 2006; Brock, Lazarus, & Jimerson, 2002).
- School psychologists work with administrators to respond to crises by providing leadership, direct services, and coordination with needed community services^{21,22}, and research has revealed that school staff rate the crisis intervention services provided by school psychologists as very important (Watkins, Crosby, & Pearson, 2007).

Strengthening Family–School Partnerships

- School psychologists work with students and their families to enhance home–school collaboration^{23,24}, and research has demonstrated the power of family–school partnerships to positively impact children’s school success (Christenson, 2004) and their general well-being into adulthood (Reynolds et al., 2007).
- School psychologists work with students and their families to identify and address learning and behavior problems that interfere with school success^{25,26}, and school-based behavioral consultation has been shown to yield positive results such as remediating academic and behavior problems for children and reducing referrals for psychoeducational assessments (MacLeod, Jones, Somer, & Havey, 2001).
- School psychologists participate in early intervention programs designed to provide parents with knowledge of child development and how to keep children healthy and safe^{27,28}, and early intervention programs targeting at-risk students have been shown to reduce special education referrals and placement, suspension, grade retention,

and disciplinary referrals (National Research Council and Institute of Medicine, 2000).

- School psychologists work to enhance understanding and acceptance of diverse cultures and backgrounds and to promote culturally competent practice^{29,30}, and there is considerable evidence that failing to address cultural and linguistic differences can negatively impact assessment activities and students' performance on achievement tests (Ortiz, 2008).

Improving Assessment and Accountability

- School psychologists work with administrators to collect and analyze data related to school improvement, student outcomes, and accountability requirements^{31,32}, thus helping schools meet legal requirements established by the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001 and the Individuals with Disabilities Education Improvement Act of 2004.
- School psychologists work with teachers to design and implement student progress monitoring systems^{33,34}, and school staff rate as very important the assessment, consultation, counseling, and behavior management services provided by school psychologists (Watkins, Crosby, & Pearson, 2007).
- School psychologists work with teachers and administrators to collect and analyze data on risk and protective factors related to student outcomes^{35,36}, and there is evidence that addressing these factors in schools promotes children's well-being and resilience (Baker, 2008).

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Endnotes

¹ *Model for Comprehensive and Integrated School Psychological Services* (NASP, 2010), Domain 2—Consultation and Collaboration and Domain 3—Interventions and Instructional Support to Develop Academic Skills. Proposed for adoption by the NASP Delegate Assembly, March 2010.

² NASP Position Statement: *School Psychologists' Involvement in the Role of Assessment* (2009)

³ *Model for Comprehensive and Integrated School Psychological Services* (NASP, 2010), Domain 1—Data-based Decision Making and Accountability, Domain 2—Consultation and Collaboration, and Domain 7—Family–School Collaboration Services. Proposed for adoption by the NASP Delegate Assembly, March 2010.

⁴ NASP Position Statement: *Identification of Students with Specific Learning Disabilities* (2007)

⁵ *Model for Comprehensive and Integrated School Psychological Services* (NASP, 2010), Domain 2—Consultation and Collaboration, Domain 3—Interventions and Instructional Support to Develop Academic Skills, and Domain 4—Interventions and Mental Health Services to Develop Social and Life Skills. Proposed for adoption by the NASP Delegate Assembly, March 2010.

⁶ NASP Position Statement: *School Psychologists' Involvement in the Role of Assessment* (2009)

⁷ *Model for Comprehensive and Integrated School Psychological Services* (NASP, 2010), Domain 2—Consultation and Collaboration, Domain 3—Interventions and Instructional Support to Develop Academic Skills, and Domain 4—Interventions and Mental Health Services to Develop Social and Life Skills. Proposed for adoption by the NASP Delegate Assembly, March 2010.

⁸ NASP Position Statement: *Ensuring High Quality, Comprehensive Pupil Services* (2008)

⁹ *Model for Comprehensive and Integrated School Psychological Services* (NASP, 2010), Domain 2—Consultation and Collaboration, Domain 4—Interventions and Mental Health Services to Develop Social and Life Skills, and Domain 10—Legal, Ethical, and Professional Practice. Proposed for adoption by the NASP Delegate Assembly, March 2010.

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- ¹⁰ NASP Position Statements: *The Importance of School Mental Health Services* (2008) and *Ensuring High Quality, Comprehensive Pupil Services* (2008)
- ¹¹ *Model for Comprehensive and Integrated School Psychological Services* (NASP, 2010), Domain 2—Consultation and Collaboration, Domain 7—Family–School Collaboration Services, and Domain 8—Diversity in Development and Learning. Proposed for adoption by the NASP Delegate Assembly, March 2010.
- ¹² NASP Position Statements: *Appropriate Behavioral, Social, and Emotional Supports to Meet the Needs of All Students* (2009) and *Effective Parenting: Positive Support for Parents* (2006)
- ¹³ *Model for Comprehensive and Integrated School Psychological Services* (NASP, 2010), Domain 4—Interventions and Mental Health Services to Develop Social and Life Skills and Domain 8—Diversity in Development and Learning. Proposed for adoption by the NASP Delegate Assembly, March 2010.
- ¹⁴ NASP Publication: *Best Practices in School Psychology V* (Thomas & Grimes, 2008)
- ¹⁵ *Model for Comprehensive and Integrated School Psychological Services* (NASP, 2010), Domain 2—Consultation and Collaboration, Domain 4—Interventions and Mental Health Services to Develop Social and Life Skills, and Domain 7—Family–School Collaboration Services. Proposed for adoption by the NASP Delegate Assembly, March 2010.
- ¹⁶ NASP Position Statement: *Effective Parenting: Positive Support for Parents* (2006)
- ¹⁷ *Model for Comprehensive and Integrated School Psychological Services* (NASP, 2010), Domain 2—Consultation and Collaboration and Domain 5—School-Wide Practices to Promote Learning. Proposed for adoption by the NASP Delegate Assembly, March 2010.
- ¹⁸ NASP Position Statements: *School Violence* (2006) and *Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, and Transgender Youth* (2006)
- ¹⁹ *Model for Comprehensive and Integrated School Psychological Services* (NASP, 2010), Domain 2—Consultation and Collaboration, Domain 5—School-Wide Practices to Promote Learning and Domain 6—Preventive and Responsive Services. Proposed for adoption by the NASP Delegate Assembly, March 2010.
- ²⁰ NASP Position Statements: *Ensuring High Quality, Comprehensive Pupil Services* (2008) and *School Violence* (2006)
- ²¹ *Model for Comprehensive and Integrated School Psychological Services* (NASP, 2010), Domain 2—Consultation and Collaboration, Domain 5—School-Wide Practices to Promote Learning, and Domain 6—Preventive and Responsive Services. Proposed for adoption by the NASP Delegate Assembly, March 2010.
- ²² NASP Position Statements: *Ensuring High Quality, Comprehensive Pupil Services* (2008) and *School Violence* (2006)
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- ²⁴ NASP Position Statement: *Home–School Collaboration: Establishing Partnerships to Enhance Educational Outcomes* (2005)
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- ²⁶ NASP Position Statements: *Effective Parenting: Positive Support for Parents* (2006) and *School Psychologists’ Involvement in the Role of Assessment* (2009)
- ²⁷ *Model for Comprehensive and Integrated School Psychological Services* (NASP, 2010), Domain 6—Preventive and Responsive Services and Domain 7—Family–School Collaboration Services. Proposed for adoption by the NASP Delegate Assembly, March 2010.
- ²⁸ NASP Position Statement: *Effective Parenting: Positive Support for Parents* (2006)
- ²⁹ *Model for Comprehensive and Integrated School Psychological Services* (NASP, 2010), Domain 7—Family–School Collaboration Services and Domain 8—Diversity in Development and Learning. Proposed for adoption by the NASP Delegate Assembly, March 2010.
- ³⁰ NASP Position Statement: *Racism, Prejudice, and Discrimination* (2004)

³¹ *Model for Comprehensive and Integrated School Psychological Services* (NASP, 2010), Domain 1—Data-Based Decision Making and Accountability, Domain 9—Research and Program Evaluation, and Domain 10—Legal, Ethical, and Professional Practice. Proposed for adoption by the NASP Delegate Assembly, March 2010.

³² NASP Position Statements: *Appropriate Behavioral, Social, and Emotional Supports to Meet the Needs of All Students* (2009)

³³ *Model for Comprehensive and Integrated School Psychological Services* (NASP, 2010), Domain 1—Data-Based Decision Making and Accountability, Domain 2—Consultation and Collaboration, and Domain 9—Research and Program Evaluation. Proposed for adoption by the NASP Delegate Assembly, March 2010.

³⁴ NASP Position Paper: *Identification of Students with Specific Learning Disabilities* (2007)

³⁵ NASP Position Statement: *Ensuring High Quality, Comprehensive Pupil Services* (2008)

³⁶ *Model for Comprehensive and Integrated School Psychological Services* (NASP, 2010), Domain 1—Data-Based Decision Making and Accountability, Domain 2—Consultation and Collaboration, and Domain 9—Research and Program Evaluation. Proposed for adoption by the NASP Delegate Assembly, March 2010.

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