



NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF SCHOOL PSYCHOLOGISTS
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*Enhancing the mental health and
educational competence of all children.*

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The National Association of School Psychologists, in cooperation with Senator Lincoln (AR), Senator Cochran (MS), Representative Loeb sack (IA-2) and Representative Ehlers (MI-3), invite you to attend...

Positive School Climate, Student Wellness, and Improved Academic Achievement: Bringing Out the Best in Students and Schools

What: In recognition of **National School Psychology Awareness Week, November 9-13, 2009**, please join us for a panel discussion and lunch on the critical link between academic achievement, positive learning environments, and students' outlook and resilience, and what schools can do to promote these important factors in school success.

When: Tuesday, November 10, 2009, 11:00 a.m.–12:30 p.m. (Lunch provided)

Where: Senate Visitor Center, U.S. Capitol Visitor Center Room 201/200

Why: Bringing out the best in all students and schools requires more than a rigorous curriculum and effective instruction. School climate can either support or undermine students' connectedness, safety, behavior, attendance, socialization, and learning—all of which directly impact achievement. Similarly, students come to school with individual strengths (developmental assets), such as positive relationships, good skill development, optimism, and resilience, and risk factors, such as family difficulties, behavior or mental health problems, and chronic stress. Unaddressed, these potential barriers impede both students' ability to learn and teachers' ability to teach. Schools that set as priorities creating positive school climates, building strong family–school partnerships, and promoting student wellness will enjoy increased student engagement and achievement. However, if the effort is not intentional, lasting benefits are not likely to occur.

NASP represents more than 25,000 school psychologists who work with students, educators, and families to support academic achievement, positive school climate, and mental wellness for *all* students, especially those who struggle with barriers to learning. School psychologists are critical members of the school team working to bring out the best in students and schools.

Who: A panel of expert school psychologists and educators will discuss specific strategies, staff roles, and policies that are practical, time-tested and research-based, and relate to NCLB reauthorization and numerous pieces of legislation currently under consideration. Utilizing these key elements—and including them in school accountability measures—will help local schools promote student well-being, improved instruction, and academic achievement.

Kathy Minke, PhD, NCSP, Acting Director, School of Education, University of Delaware and NASP President-Elect

Terry Molony, PsyD, NCSP, School Psychologist, Cherry Hill Public School District, New Jersey and Chair of NASP Positive Psychology Interest Group

Kwame R. Morton, Principal, Joyce Kilmer Elementary School, Cherry Hill, New Jersey

Stacy Skalski, PhD, Director of Public Policy, National Association of School Psychologists, Maryland

Remarks by honored invited guests Senator Lincoln, Senator Cochran, Representative Loeb sack, and Representative Ehlers

Please RSVP by Monday, November 9, at noon to Allison Bollinger abollinger@naspweb.org

Please contact Stacy Skalski, Director of Public Policy with any question, at 301-347-1671 or sskalski@naspweb.org