

Description of the Responsibilities of the State School Psychology Action Network (SPAN) Contact

What is the SPAN?

The SPAN consists of a network of school psychologists who have an interest in and a commitment to public policy and legislative advocacy. The purpose of the network is to facilitate grassroots advocacy that is timely, effective, and responsive to public policy issues that impact school psychologists. The goal of the network is to quickly disseminate critical information and empower school psychologists to action by activating grassroots networks at the national, state, and local level.

Role and Selection of the State SPAN Contact

The SPAN Contact facilitates two-way communication between NASP and school psychologists within their state regarding critical legislative, public policy and advocacy issues. Each state association president needs to identify a SPAN Contact for their state. The process for identifying the SPAN Contact should be in accordance with the state bylaws and the requirements outlined in this description. If the state does not have a formal selection process identified in the association bylaws, then NASP recommends that the State President, in consultation with the NASP Delegate, appoint an individual to fill the role of State SPAN Contact. This position is for a one-year term, which may be renewed or terminated at the discretion of the President and the Delegate

Criteria for Appointment to the Position of State SPAN Contact

- NASP *and* state association membership.
- Access to e-mail.
- Knowledge of state legislative and public policy processes and state and local issues.
- An ability and willingness to work closely with state association leadership, NASP staff and Government and Professional Relations (GPR) committee members.

Responsibilities of the State SPAN Contact

- Develop, update and utilize a network of school psychologists in the state. This network is called the SPAN, and operates both *within* states and *between* states and NASP.
- Communicate with NASP GPR Regional Coordinators regarding state legislative or public policy issues that may require assistance from the GPR Committee or NASP Staff.
- Respond to NETSCAN* alerts from NASP by:
 - Consulting state leadership to determine if a bill should be tracked;
 - Communicating decisions regarding bill tracking to the NASP GPR Regional Coordinator;
 - Determining whether assistance from NASP is needed and communicating state needs to the NASP GPR Regional Coordinator.
 - Sharing NETSCAN alerts with members of the state SPAN network;
- Promote network member participation in the regular review and use of the NASP Advocacy Action Center (<http://capwiz.com/naspweb/home/>)
- Contact network members within a specific Congressional District to communicate NASP concerns when NASP needs to target a specific member of Congress regarding a pending bill or amendment.

- Request that network members contact the elected official to deliver a NASP-developed message via letter, e-mail, phone or office visit.
- Respond to requests for information from NASP Staff /GPR Regional Coordinators regarding action of network members within the state pertaining to legislative issues.
- Actively promote and, as needed, participate in state and national legislative trainings (GPR State Trainings, Public Policy Institutes, GPR and Legislative trainings at the NASP Convention).
- Build coalitions with allied groups within your state and forward NETSCAN information to these groups as appropriate.
- Work with state leadership to identify and to nominate individuals who have played an important role in legislative advocacy for annual GPR Awards.
- Monitor or arrange for monitoring of the legislative activities of the state psychology association and the state psychology licensing board.

* NETSCAN is a legislative tracking software used by NASP that identifies, monitors and tracks state and federal legislation that includes key words important to school psychologists

Role and Responsibilities of the NASP Government and Professional Relations (GPR) Regional Coordinator

Role of the GPR Regional Coordinators

To facilitate the development of a national SPAN network, four members of the NASP GPR Committee will serve as Regional SPAN Coordinators. Each GPR Regional Coordinator will assist state SPAN Contacts with the development, maintenance and utilization of the SPAN network in each state within the Northeast, Southeast, Central or Western regions (as determined by NASP) of the United States.

Responsibilities of GPR Regional Coordinators

- Serve as the critical liaison between GPR leadership, NASP Staff and state SPAN Contacts within each region.
- Verify State SPAN Contact appointments through communication with state presidents and delegates in all states in each respective region.
- Assist state SPAN Contacts with issues regarding the development of their SPAN. GPR Regional Coordinators should contact each state SPAN Contact at least every two months to assist with issues regarding the development and maintenance of the SPAN.
- Follow-up on NETSCAN alerts sent to SPAN Contacts within each region by communicating with state SPAN Contacts to ask if a NASP identified bill should be tracked. If a state decides that a bill should be tracked, contact NASP Staff and GPR Committee leadership to coordinate an appropriate response.
- Respond to GPR Committee Leadership and NASP Staff regarding:
 - impending legislation within each state in their region;
 - requests for information from state SPAN contacts;
 - critical policy issues requiring state and national coordination (For example, the APA Model Licensure Act as it relates to state certification and credentialing).