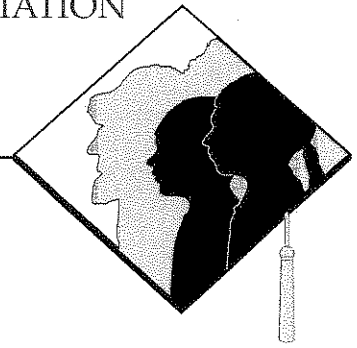


NEW HAMPSHIRE SCHOOL ADMINISTRATORS ASSOCIATION

CHAMPIONS FOR CHILDREN



May 13, 2009

Task Force on Model
Licensure Act American
Psychological Association
750 First Street NE
Washington, D.C. 20002

To the Members of the Model Licensure Act Task Force:

On behalf of the members of the New Hampshire School Administrators' Association I wish to express our strong opposition to the proposed change to section J of the MLA that removes the exemption for specialist level school psychologists to use their titles. We urge APA to strike this change from the proposed revisions and reinstate the long-held exemption for all school psychologists.

The reasoning for changing the school psychologist exemption is unsound and unscientific. Doctoral level and licensed school psychologists have not been found to have a level of psychological practice in schools that is superior to or of significantly higher quality than specialist level school psychologists. Specialist and doctoral level school psychologists are experts in psychology and education. They provide high quality psychological and educational services in schools and improve the educational, behavioral, adaptive, social, and emotional outcomes of children and youth enabling them to achieve in school and in life.

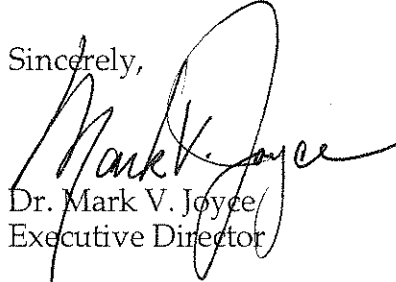
These specialized professionals are highly valued in the schools because of the unique combination of rigorous graduate training (in psychology and education) that they work diligently to attain, and the subsequent invaluable services that they are able to provide. This proposed change in the MLA exemption would unjustly remove the rights of many highly qualified educational professionals in New Hampshire and severely limit the ability of schools to meet the needs of all students.

APA has a professional responsibility to recommend to state legislatures amendments to their state psychology licensing acts that are based only on empirical, evidentiary grounds for the purpose of protecting the public. No such grounds exist. Therefore, there is no justifiable need for this removal of exemption or for the removal of the title of non-doctoral school psychologists to take place.

In brief, implementing this change would inevitably have a negative impact on children, practitioners and taxpayers. For the reasons stated above, we strongly advise the APA to reinstate the exemption in section J for all school psychologists.

Thank you for your consideration of our ideas and please feel free to contact me if I may provide any further information.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Mark V. Joyce". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name and title.

Dr. Mark V. Joyce
Executive Director

cc. Dr. Virginia Barry, Commissioner of Education for New Hampshire
Dr Judith D. Fillion, Director of NH Division of Program Support
Mr. Bruce Hunter, American Association of School Administrators
Ms. Mary Kusler, American Association of School Administrators
Executive Board Members of NHSAA