

Massachusetts Delegate Candidate—Wendy Price

NASP recently adopted its 2010 Model for Comprehensive and Integrated School Psychological Services. What steps would you, as state delegate, take to use the 2010 model to best solidify the professional identity of school psychologists and ensure access to school psychological services by all children, families, and schools?

As Massachusetts Delegate, I would strive to work on behalf of all our school psychologists to advocate for our profession. I would use a three pronged approach, focusing on legislation, partnering with other stake holders, and using NASP and its resources to empower school psychologists to advocate for themselves.

Currently, school psychologists in Massachusetts need more exposure at the state level. With the recent anti-bullying legislation, we are more so than ever, essential members of our school's staff. Increasing our visibility and advertising all we are equipped and capable of, is key. As Delegate, I would work to "shine a light" on the competencies of school psychologists. I would love to present NASP's PowerPoint of the Model at the State House. I would strive to have our title become part of the language of mental health initiatives in our state. Our MSPA Legislative Committee and our lobbyist have already made great gains in this area and I would give them my full support as Delegate.

In addition, I would work to continue (and improve) our partnerships with other stake holders, such as the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE). Currently, we (at MSPA) are part of a DESE Task Force aimed at updating SLD identification/eligibility. As Delegate I would try to help increase our visibility at the DESE. Our MSPA Education Committee has done amazing work making inroads with the DESE and I would try to continue this advancement. I would use the NASP Practice Model as a basis for collaborating with the DESE on developing the Educator Evaluation rubric they are looking to overhaul.

Finally, I would encourage individual school psychologists to adopt the model. As part of my NASP Delegate table at our state conferences, I would look to include Practice Model handouts and perhaps set up a lap top so people could do the self-assessment and look at the PowerPoint at various break times in the conference. This would ensure greater exposure to resources to help them in their own self-advocacy.

In summary, as the Massachusetts Delegate, I would use the NASP Practice Model as a foundation for increasing our profession's exposure legislatively, at the state department of education, and with each school psychologist in the state. In these precarious economic times, this will become increasingly more essential, as we are asked to do more and more with less and less. Promoting all of the amazing skills that school psychologists possess will help solidify our key role in the schools!