

NASP Advocacy Roadmap for States: Navigating the APA Model Act for the Licensure of Psychologists

History of NASP Activities Related to the APA Proposed Model Act for the Licensure of Psychologists

Fall 2006	NASP learned about APA's "title act" proposed changes and the potential elimination of the exemption for school psychologists. The exemption in the 1987 model act states, "Individuals who have been certified as school psychologists by the (<i>cite relevant state education authority or statutory provisions</i>) shall be permitted to use the term "school psychologist" or "certified school psychologist." NASP strongly opposes removal of the school psychologists' exemption from the proposed revision of the model act.
December 1, 2006	NASP sent a letter to the APA Model Act Task Force expressing concern about the potential elimination of the exemption; task force staff responded that the letter was not conveyed to the task force since no other group's input was invited or allowed.
January 12-13, 2007	NASP Executive Council (EC) discussed the issue at its winter meeting, not knowing if the current exemption for school psychologists would be dropped by the task force.
March 2007	NASP attended the APA "All Boards" Meeting; learned the exemption was eliminated in the proposed draft of the model act. The NASP EC and Delegate Assembly (DA) were informed about the proposed APA model act and views were shared regarding the potential impact for school psychologists if it was adopted by state legislatures or regulatory boards.
April 13, 2007	NASP submitted a letter to APA's Board of Educational Affairs (BEA) during its open comment period.
July 2007	NASP governance groups discussed information and strategy during its July 12-15th meetings.
August—October 2007	APA opened its 90-day public comment period; NASP posted background materials and a web-based vehicle for providing comments. (NASP sought APA approval for the NASP web-based format). Over 10,600 letters were sent via the NASP web-based submission process. Letters were invited (individually) from national stakeholder groups. More than 10 national stakeholder groups and dozens of state and local stakeholder groups (e.g., special education administrators) and most NASP state association affiliates submitted letters to APA during the comment period.
September 10, 2007	NASP officers authorized the hiring of an attorney to assist with issues related to responding to the model act.
October 2007	NASP hired an attorney who is well versed in "restraint of trade" issues and litigation.
October 22, 2007	NASP sent a letter to the Model Act Task Force after hearing rumors that NASP supported increasing private practice rights for school psychologists. NASP clarified such efforts are not part of the NASP agenda.
Oct—Nov 2007	NASP GPR committee develops the <i>Advocacy Roadmap for States: Navigating a State Level Response for the APA Model Act for the Licensure of Psychologists</i> for NASP state affiliate advocacy.
December 2007	NASP EC authorized expanded budget for legal counsel.
January 1-December 31, 2007	NASP staff and leaders spent approximately 875 person-hours responding to the proposed elimination of the exemption.
January 2008	NASP credentialing and advocacy committee members met to develop additional advocacy materials to assist states in creating a campaign to

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	respond to APA model act threats.
January 17, 2008	NASP and CASP participated on a conference call with the Deputy Attorney General of California who responded to a CASP letter of concern; the NASP attorney participated on the call.
Jan—Dec 2008	NASP continued communication with APA Division 16 leaders and attended all meetings of the School Psychology Leadership Roundtable (February at NASP New Orleans and August at APA Boston). Division 16 reported that two division representatives were added as liaisons to the Model Act Task Force.
February 2009	News of a expected revisions in the second draft of model act were shared during the NASP Convention in Boston but draft language was not yet available; sessions focused on advocacy were presented throughout the convention.
March 6, 2009	APA released its revised model act draft and began its 90-public comment period with a form for the public to complete with its feedback. The revised model act draft includes an exemption that “Only those persons who are credentialed by state education agencies to provide psychoeducational services and who possess a doctoral degree in psychology from a regionally accredited institution may use the title “school psychologist” or “certified school psychologist.” NASP strongly opposes limiting the exemption to only those with a doctoral degree in school psychology and reaffirms NASP’s position that credentialed specialist and doctoral level school psychologists may use the title. Further, the act is described as the prototype for the practice of psychology, that psychological services will be provided by licensed and qualified professionals, defines the practices of psychology, and essentially attempts to remove the right of state agency credentialed specialist-level school psychologists to engage in these practices. NASP opposes these, as well as other components of the March 2009 revised model act draft.
March 10, 2009	The NASP Model Act Task Force for responding to APA’s model act met to review and discuss changes in the second draft of the model act document. An advocacy plan for informing members and requesting member and stakeholder comments to APA was developed. Revision of all <i>Advocacy Roadmap</i> documents began.
Week of March 16	A website with updated information on the second draft of the model act was set up and a NASP Advocacy Alert was sent to all members requesting their participation in a letter writing campaign.