

HILARY TURNER

State Delegate Candidate: Alaska

Statement 1

What are your qualifications that make you a strong candidate for delegate?

Previously I served as Alaska's delegate for six years, making me a strong candidate to be elected back in this role with knowledge and understanding of how to work within the state with current state leaders, association members, local stakeholders and psychologists, as well as being a liaison between state and nation. I have experience working with groups of people across the country with issues that face all of our states as School Psychologists, including trips to Washington DC to talk to legislators while learning about what other districts and states are doing to make our roles as School Psychologist more robust in order to support and advocate for our students. I am organized, punctual, have a desire and willingness to learn, and want to work to support our state with the unique issues that we face. I enjoy talking with different groups of people from parents, students, colleagues, state associations, to people at the national and legislative level. Alaska is a unique and diverse state with districts spreading across the state, from extremely rural to our more urban areas. As someone who was born and raised in Alaska, I know the unique needs of our state and districts, and would like to be able to work with other individuals to discuss issues surrounding the field of School Psychology. As someone who is solution focused it is through these conversations that action plans to support things like shortages, retention, mental health services in schools, and social justice, to name a few, come to fruition.

What is the most pressing issue in your state? As NASP Delegate, how do you see your role in working with your state association to address this issue?

One of the most pressing issues in our state is School Psychologist shortages. We have shortages across all districts. Having rural areas that are challenging and sometimes nearly impossible to travel to due to weather and other unique variables has left villages and other communities without the mental health support students require with can have cyclical issues affecting our Alaskans. One thing I see more and more is contractors being hired in place of regularly employed psychologists and more Educational Diagnosticians being employed in the place of a School Psychologist because we are unable to hire or retain our School Psychologists. As Alaska delegate I would want to work with our state association and the national association to analyze and action plan around credentialing, recruitment, and retention to help support districts being fully staffed so that ALL school districts and schools have the support and advocacy they need for mental health services, academic engagement/achievement, and intervention to name a few. I would want to work with my state association to engage in grassroots advocacy with local and state politicians and collaborate/consult and plan with the national association for resources & training surrounding these unique needs effecting our state.