

RACHELE TESON

State Delegate Candidate: Missouri

Statement 2

NASP Leaders have adopted five strategic goals that guide the association's work. In your state, what are some gains being made in school psychology practice related to these goals, and what are some pressing challenges?

If elected NASP Delegate for Missouri, I would continue to support the five strategic goals that guide our state and national association's work. In Missouri, we are actively working on making gains in the same areas as our state level strategic plan aligns with NASP.

Some current gains related to social justice goals include completing and publishing the Social Justice and Equity Mission statement, working on professional development topics within social justice, and promoting what school psychologists do in Missouri at each level in terms of advocacy.

Workforce shortage goals have gleaned disseminating school psychology shortage white paper with MASP survey results, infographics for Missouri shortages, promoting the NASP Exposure Project, working with legislators and university systems to create new programs in Missouri, and working on recertification programs.

In terms of leadership development, Missouri has ensured new leadership with MASP has completed leadership training/onboarding. The committee is also making gains with various projects to boost membership, offering leadership opportunities, and producing a quarterly membership newsletter.

The strategic goal around practice model implementation has taken on working with MO-DESE to update our state certification standards with the hope that the NCSP will be accepted as Missouri certification. This committee is also providing professional development to outside stakeholders and promoting the NASP practice model during National School Psychology Week, following the NASP state association guide.

The final goal around mental and behavioral health is making progress with awareness. This includes surveying membership about training interests/needs around mental and behavioral health, annual collaboration with Missouri's school counselor and school social worker associations, as well as the Boone County Mental Health Coalition to promote school psychologists as mental health professionals. What our leadership learned at the Spring 21 RLM has helped steer us in the correct direction.

Some pressing challenges related to the five strategic goals include high ratios in Missouri. Our highest needs as a state truly revolves around state credentialing and developing more training programs.