

## **Resolution: School Psychologists as Qualified Mental and Behavioral Health Service Providers**

- Whereas, the mission of the National Association of School Psychologists (NASP) is to “empower school psychologists by advancing practices to improve learning, behavior, and mental health for all children and youth;” and
- Whereas, the NASP (2010) *Model for Comprehensive and Integrated School Psychological Services* (NASP Practice Model) identifies the professional practices domain of Interventions and Mental Health Services to Develop Social and Life Skills as a key student-level service; and
- Whereas, the NASP Practice Model identifies the professional practices domain of Preventive and Responsive Services for school psychologists to address the risk and resilience factors in learning and mental health within a continuum of services from prevention to intervention; and
- Whereas, the NASP Practice Model identifies the professional practices domain of Family–School Collaboration Services as important to developing evidence-based and culturally responsive strategies to support family influences on children’s mental health; and
- Whereas, the NASP (2010) *Standards for Graduate Preparation of School Psychologists* provides national standards for high-quality instruction in all graduate education programs that lead to attainment of the primary competencies needed to integrate knowledge and skills across the domains of the NASP Practice Model; and
- Whereas, NASP endorses a multitiered system of support (MTSS) framework that encompasses a comprehensive range of preventive, universal, targeted, and intensive interventions to address the mental and behavioral health needs of all students; and
- Whereas, school psychologists can help prevent or reduce the immediate and long-term effects of children’s mental and behavioral health problems; and
- Whereas, good mental health is critical to children’s success in school, with research demonstrating that students who receive social–emotional and mental health support attain higher levels of achievement; and
- Whereas, the provision of comprehensive school psychological services reduces barriers to accessing mental and behavioral health services for underserved children; and
- Whereas, school psychologists who received training consistent with the NASP standards have the expertise to provide a comprehensive range of mental and behavioral health services, including counseling, consultation, social–emotional education, and assessment; and
- Whereas, school psychologists are recognized as qualified providers of mental and behavioral health services in federal law.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the National Association of School Psychologists affirms that school psychologists are qualified providers of child and adolescent mental and behavioral health services.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the National Association of School Psychologists remains committed to improving the capacity of school psychologists to provide coordinated, comprehensive, and culturally responsive school mental and behavioral health services.