

## **Recent comments from education leaders, parents and practitioners across NC:**

**Education leader #1:** *"I've had a vacancy in my district for 2 years that I cannot fill. I'm left to work with a non-school trained contract provider for services. Often times, the private provider determines that they "won't evaluate" certain students due to the complexity of the cases presented."*

**Education leader #2:** *"When will we be able to get more school psychologists in this state? I cannot fill positions in my district due lack of available professionals. Our students are suffering."*

**Practitioner #1:** *"I am concerned about litigation that we could face due to lack of sufficient resources to deliver counseling to students with IEPs. We have several students who transfer here from other states who have counseling as related service and we don't have the school psychologist workforce in our district to support that need."*

**Education leader #3:** *"I have had vacancies in my district due to inability to compete with neighboring (larger districts) on salary supplements for school psychologists. When will there be a level of equity provided from the state to allow rural districts to have access to quality providers?"*

**Parent #1:** *"Why are our students with disabilities not receiving counseling as a related service on their IEP? I'm told that school counselors don't typically provide that level of service and there is no school psychologist available in my child's school to provide it."*

**Education leader #4:** *"I need a psychological service provider who understands the federal legislation and rights of students with disabilities. Also, one who understands how to administer educationally relevant evaluations to our students suspected of having disabilities."*

**Education leader #5:** *"We are unable to establish a consistent practice of having trained providers respond to student crisis. Our school psychologists are split between 2-4 buildings across our district. We want their skills in delivering crisis response services, but their current caseloads require them to split their time between too many buildings."*

**Practitioner #2:** *"I have conducted over 100 assessments to date this school year. The volume of testing that I am required to do in managing 3-4 schools prevents me from contributing to the needs in my buildings regarding student mental health and crisis response."*

**Parent #2:** *"The school psychologist that worked with my child clearly understood the instructional and environmental adjustments that my child needed to be successful in school. I only wish that we had more of these providers working with more students in need."*

**Education leader #6:** *"The skill set of a school psychologist is unmatched in what they can provide in to support the total school improvement efforts of our system while also understanding the learning and mental health needs of individual students. It is a shame that they are spending most of their time involved in testing b/c there are so few of them in our state."*

**Parent #3:** *"My child's school told me that my child needs to be seen by an outside agency due to threats of self-harm. School staff indicated that my child may not return to school until they are cleared by an outside evaluator. Why aren't there trained staff working in schools to assist my child?"*