

NASP Advocacy Roadmap: NASP Practice Model

Model for Comprehensive and Integrated School Psychological Services

Exhibit E

Key Messages about the NASP Practice Model

The National Association of School Psychologists (NASP) has set standards for the provision of school psychological services for over 30 years. Despite this long-standing guidance to states and local school districts, school psychologists' roles and practice vary significantly across the country. In March 2010, NASP approved a formal model of practice designed to improve the consistent implementation of school psychological services to help ensure their maximum effectiveness, efficiency, and quality in schools nationwide. As school psychologists actively engage in advocacy for the purpose of promoting the adoption and implementation of the NASP Practice Model, it is critical to be familiar with the key messages that have been identified as part of this effort. School psychologists must reinforce these messages through their actions. Every school psychologist can benefit from considering how they are actively advocating for their role within this model, the degree that their work reflects these key messages, and how their actions add value to school improvement efforts. These messages are designed primarily for use with school administrators, educators, and policy makers at the state or local level but they can be adapted as needed for other audiences.

Key Messages

The NASP Practice Model helps schools successfully:

- ***Improve academic engagement and achievement.*** High expectations and academic rigor for all students set the foundation for schools that both raise expectations and close achievement gaps. However, providing rich content and rigor alone is not enough for struggling students. School psychologists work with educators and families to:
 - Identify and remedy barriers to learning.
 - Implement appropriate academic interventions.
 - Implement appropriate social–emotional and behavioral strategies

- ***Facilitate effective instruction.*** Rigorous, quality curricula must be matched with effective instruction that meets the individual needs of diverse learners. School psychologists consult with teachers on how to:
 - Individualize instruction
 - Monitor student progress
 - Evaluate classroom data

- Adjust intervention and instructional strategies to make content accessible to every student
- **Support positive behavior and socially successful students.** Promoting students' positive behavior and social interactions directly supports their academic achievement and contributes to a healthy learning environment. School psychologists provide services that promote children's communication and social skills, problem solving, anger management, conflict resolution, self-regulation, self-determination, resilience, and optimism. School psychologists consult and provide direct services in the areas of:
 - Classroom management strategies
 - Programs promoting positive peer relationships and social problem solving
 - School-wide positive behavior interventions and supports
 - The use of effective discipline policies and practices
 - Programs to promote student wellness and reduce risk-taking
 - Student mental health needs
- **Support diverse learners.** Successfully meeting the needs of a wide range of diverse learners can be a challenge for schools. School psychologists have special expertise in working with students who have disabilities or health problems, who face cultural or linguistic barriers, or whose family or socioeconomic situation affects their learning. They work with teachers and other staff to:
 - Assess learning and behavior needs and distinguish between issues related to family, culture, or language and a learning style or disability
 - Plan appropriate accommodations, Family Service Plans (FSP), and/or Individualized Education Programs (IEP) for students with disabilities
 - Modify and adapt curricula and instruction
 - Adjust classroom facilities and routines to promote greater student engagement
- **Create safe, positive school climates.** Positive school climate is a critical factor in student achievement. No matter how good the curriculum and instruction are, a negative learning environment will interfere with student outcomes. School psychologists work with school leadership teams to help choose, design, and evaluate evidence-based approaches to address issues such as bullying prevention, student connectedness, family engagement, cultural responsiveness, and crisis response planning. They contribute expertise in:
 - Data collection and analysis
 - Social–emotional learning
 - Child development and behavior

- Violence prevention
- Crisis and trauma prevention and response
- **Strengthen family–school–community partnerships.** Students whose families are engaged in their school experience do better academically, socially, and emotionally. How and to what extent parents and other caregivers are involved in their children’s learning and extracurricular activities depends on many factors, including opportunity, culture, language, attitudes toward school, past experience, access to information, and school climate. School psychologists provide specific support to help families:
 - Understand and support their children’s learning and mental health needs
 - Navigate special education processes
 - Connect with community service providers when necessary
 - Engage with teachers and other school staff effectively
 - Reinforce the school–family–community partnership
- **Improve assessment and accountability.** A critical part of making informed decisions is the effective use of data. School psychologists bring extensive knowledge of data collection and analysis to school improvement efforts. They can help school leaders and teachers to:
 - Collect and analyze data related to student outcomes
 - Make decisions regarding programs and interventions
 - Monitor individual student progress in academics and behavior
- **Invest existing resources wisely and effectively.** School psychologists serve in almost every school in the country. They are a ready resource. Adopting the NASP Practice Model enables schools to make best use of their skills and expertise, and to give all students access to the services that can help them stay engaged and successful in school.

A comprehensive summary of the NASP Practice Model, including more detailed information pertaining to these key messages is available in the practice model brochure. See this link: http://www.nasponline.org/standards/practice-model/Practice_Model_Brochure.pdf