Psychologists in Nova Scotia schools: a guide for parents

There are 82 psychologists employed in the provincial school boards in Nova Scotia. A minimum of 2,500 students are assigned to one psychologist.

School psychologists:

- understand educational policies and issues because they work within the educational system
- understand the viewpoints of the many stakeholders in the educational sector
- understand the importance of promoting the regular and direct contact with students, their families, and colleagues
- respond over long periods of time to concerns about students who may be in distress in nature (e.g., disruptive behavioral problems), learning disabilities, and understand these problems and the potential impact and are affected by the classroom
- are equipped with the scientific, research-based and objective approach to the analysis and solution of educational and emotional problems

See SCHOOL PSYCHOLOGISTS... / 85

How psychologists fit in school system

Access to psychological services in the school system is critical to the wellbeing of many children and families. The opportunities for improving the school system will be missed if they don’t meet.

A psychologist who works in the school system may have been employed in the educational system before they became psychologists. Or she or he may have completed his graduate level training and began employment in the school system.

Psychologists who work in schools have completed an accredited graduate program, applied for registration with the Nova Scotia Board of Examiners in Psychology, and completed or are completing the requirements to be registered with the Nova Scotia Board of Examiners in Psychology (NSBEP), as a Psychologist in Nova Scotia.

The very psychologist can work from school board to school board, according to policies and practices adapted to each school and school board. Psychologists in Nova Scotia do in specific setting appear to be independent on what makes, principals, and school board administrators think psychologists should do is work how much independence the psychologist has over what she does her job.

In the public school system, psychologists and the services they deliver are more often managed and supervised by principals, resource teachers, guidance counselors, speech-language pathologists, etc.

There are no deadlines for the practicing school psychologist, one of which is that they may be incapable of limitations or a lack of barriers. All of which can or cannot do great deal to offer. According to the Canadian Psychological Association, School psychologists provide a wide range of both educational and mental health services to districts, school boards, and community agencies.

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See SCHOOL PSYCHOLOGISTS... / 85

Nova Scotia Board of Examiners in Psychology

There are approximately 82 psychologists and psychologists (Candidate Register) in Nova Scotia. As of February 18, these are the psychologists and psychologists (Candidate Register):

Register of Psychologists

- Abdullah, Qaiser, Ph.D.
- Akbar, Mohammad, Ph.D.
- Albin, Brian, Ph.D.
- Alward, Glen, Ph.D.
- Aldam, G. R., Ph.D.
- Allen, Steven, Ph.D.
- Allen, Thomas, Ph.D.
- Allan, Edward, Ph.D.
- Allenby, Jennifer, M.A.
- Allison, L., M.A.
- Allison, Linda, M.A.
- Allison, Linda, M.A.
- Allan, Barbara, Ph.D.
- Allan, Mark, Ph.D.
- Allan, Peter, Ph.D.
- Allan, Paul, Ph.D.
- Allan, Robin, Ph.D.
- Allan, Stuart, Ph.D.
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School psychologists address social, human, ills

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- have the tools to systematically measure change in behavior over time
- have the tools to carry out psychologi- cal assessments of student- cogni- tive and learning styles for the purpose of education
- have the tools to recognize, diag- nose, and intervene in mental illness and adolescent behavior and learning disorders
- collaborate with students, families, teachers and other health-care profes- sionals in formulating appropriate serv- ice plans for the student
- support parents and the neighborhood in recommendations and plans
- maintain liaison with other agencies in the community when appropriate to ensure students, parents, and the teachers with whom they collaborate
- develop, consult, and participate in program planning to respond to change and emergency situations in schools
- stay current with research related to psychological and education, and thereby, have expertise in the educational system in the development of educational policy and procedure as well as program eval- uation.

(Professional Practice Guidelines for School Psychologists, Canadian Psychological Association, 2007)

What does the future hold?

Historically, psychological services in schools have been closely linked to the delivery of educational services for children with special needs. Typically, schools expect psychologists to participate in programs to identify and evaluate children with special educational needs. Often, they consult and collaborate with other professionals including other psychologists, teachers, and doctors. A growing number of research documents the links between mental health and educational ability to learn.

There is substantial evidence to sup- port the engaging of psychological services to improve educational achievement for young children, youth, and families.

Canadian psychologists have worked in the past two decades has consistently shown an increasing percentage per cent of children who qualify for one or more psychiatric diagnoses during their time in school.

More than 20 per cent of children will qualify for one or more psychiatric diagnoses during their time in school.

School psychologists over the last two decades has consistently focused the delivery of psychological services, often to the exclu- sion of educational services.

School psychologists must be current with research related to child development and adolescent behavior and learning disorders. A growing number of psychologists have joined the ranks of those who are working with children in schools. These psychologists have expertise in the educational system in the development of educational policy and procedure as well as program evaluation.

School psychologists work closely with students, parents, school personnel, community agen- cies, and mental health profession- als. School psychologists work well with children and adolescents of various ages, races, and learning styles.

School psychologists work with students either individually or in small groups. They can identify and support students with mental health needs, and develop and prevent early intervention programs.

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