

# school psychology { defined:

**The American Board of School Psychology (ABSP)** is a member board of the American Board of Professional Psychology (ABPP). The ABPP oversees the standards and operations of its member boards.

The ABSP is responsible for establishing the criteria related to the definition, education, training, competencies, and examination leading to certification as a specialist in School Psychology. The ABSP is governed by members who are board certified in school psychology and representative of the specialty on a national basis.

## School Psychology

School psychology is a general practice and health service provider specialty of professional psychology. School psychologists apply the science and practice of psychology to children, youth, adults, and families, and the schooling process. School psychology practice promotes the protection and fosters the promotion of the educational and personal development of all learners. They are prepared to provide a range of psychological diagnosis, assessment, consultation, individual/group/family intervention, prevention, health promotion, and program development and evaluation/research services with a special focus on the developmental processes of children and youth within the context of schools, families, and other systems.

School psychologists intervene at the individual and system levels to develop, implement, and evaluate preventive programs. School psychologists practice in a variety of setting such as public and private schools, clinics and hospitals, forensic settings, universities and in independent practice.

## Board Certification in School Psychology

Board certification assures the public and profession that the School Psychology Specialist has successfully completed the education, training, and experience requirements of the specialty including a peer-reviewed, performance-based examination designed to assess the competencies required to provide quality services in School Psychology.

Specialty level board certification is understood as higher than the basic level of competence required for independent practice in professional psychology.

## Benefits of Board Certification in School Psychology

- Serve as expert witness
- Licensure motility
- Easier access to Health Insurance Panels
- May meet promotion and tenure requirements in various settings
- May meet hospital privilege requirements
- Distinguishes organization to the public and profession

## Requirements for Board Certification

The applicant must demonstrate competence in the following interrelated foundational and functional areas.

### Science, Knowledge, and Methods

Conversant with scientific developments and applies them to professional practice.

### Evidence-Based Practice

Demonstrates a capacity to integrate current research literature into practice.

### Interdisciplinary Systems

Possesses an understanding of key interactions with other professionals, disciplines, agencies, and settings.

### Relationships

Demonstrates sensitivity to the welfare, rights, and dignity of others, as well as an ability to relate to learners/caregivers/school personnel and others in ways that enhance the effectiveness of services provided.

### Individual and Cultural Diversity

Demonstrates awareness of all aspects of individual and cultural diversity.

### Ethical and Legal/Standards Policy

Conveys an awareness of current ethical principles, psychological practice standards, statutory and regulatory provisions, and the implications of these.

### Professionalism

Demonstrates values, attitudes, and behaviors that reflect integrity and responsibility.

### Reflective Practice/Self-Assessment/Self-Care

Practices ongoing self-reflection and routine assessment of practice. Practices with self-awareness and engages in appropriate self-care.

### Assessment

Demonstrates case-conceptualizations and conducts assessments that are grounded in science-based theory, research, and practice.

### Intervention

Demonstrates the ability to design effective interventions.

### Consultation

Demonstrates the ability to apply consultation methods to promote positive learning environments and healthy development.

### Research and/or Evaluation (if applicable)

Makes scholarly contributions that inform the practice of School Psychology.

### Supervision (if applicable)

Demonstrates the ability to communicate and apply his/her knowledge in supervision with others.

### Teaching (if applicable)

Demonstrates the capacity to effectively provide instruction to others.

### Management and Administration (if applicable)

Demonstrates an ability to effectively carry out management and administrative activities in School Psychology.

### Advocacy (if applicable)

Engages in advocacy designed to impact policy, law, and public reform activities related to School Psychology.

*"My advice to school psychologists considering board certification is to not be intimidated by the process. I recommend that they view the journey toward certification as an opportunity for self-reflection, learning, and personal/professional growth. In addition, I would say that they will have the opportunity to interact with other Board Certified psychologists who will inspire them to greatness. Having the chance to meet highly respected psychologists in my field was an experience I will never forget."*

*-Gailyn M. Garcia, PhD, NCSP, ABPP*