School Psychologists as Mental Health Professionals

Students who have healthy social and emotional development are more likely to achieve academically as well. Did you know:

- School psychologists are trained mental health professionals who can help students overcome barriers to success.
- School psychologists can help prevent or reduce the immediate and long-term effects of student’s mental health problems.
- School psychologists can provide immediate, easily accessible mental health services to students.
- School psychologists provide mental health services that support student success academically, emotionally, and socially.
- School psychologists are specially trained to link mental health to learning and behavior:
  - School psychologists are often the only school mental health professionals trained in child psychology, learning and development, as well as school systems and classroom environments. They know how to integrate therapeutic and academic settings, making school an appropriate setting for treatment.
- School psychologists promote the emotional well-being of all students by:
  - Developing relationships with community mental health professionals.
  - Developing a coordinated school/community crisis response plan.
  - Advocating for mental health legislation.
  - Seeking funding for integrated school/community resources.
  - Providing in-service training for parents, teachers, and administrators regarding mental health issues.
  - Developing suicide awareness and prevention programs.
  - Developing school wide programs to prevent bullying and aggression.

Does your school district have a school psychologist? Contact the Missouri Association of School Psychologists (maspweb.org) for more information.

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