



SCHOOL PSYCHOLOGY NEWSLETTER

North Carolina Department of Public Instruction

In this issue:

Introduction—[Watch the Video](#)

NC School Mental Health Initiative—
Update on the work of this partnership

The Every Student Succeeds Act—
Updates from NCDPI

School Psychology and the WSCC Model

MTSS Awareness

In Case You Missed It—Concussion
Monitoring

About the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction:

The North Carolina DPI provides leadership to 115 local public school districts and 160 charter schools serving over 1.5 million students in kindergarten through high school graduation. The agency is responsible for all aspects of the state's public school system and works under the direction of the North Carolina State Board of Education.

Welcome to the first newsletter that is specific to the field of school psychology. The intent of these quarterly issues is to cast a broader communication net to school psychologists across the state. There is always a lot going on, so the hope is to summarize a few important areas quarterly in order to keep the discipline updated on areas relevant to the work of school psychologists.



STUDENT • SCHOOL • PARENT • COMMUNITY

It is the mission of this partnership to develop recommendations for policy and/or legislative change to ensure that public school students in North Carolina have equitable access to a full continuum of high-quality and well-coordinated mental health services.

UPDATE ON THE [NC SCHOOL MENTAL HEALTH INITIATIVE](#) (NC SMHI):

- Throughout the past 5 months, this partnership of stakeholders has worked diligently on a summary of their findings and recommendations, with the result being a full report and executive summary.
- The group reconvened on October 11th in order to finalize:
 - ⇒ the Executive Summary
 - ⇒ plans for presentation to the State Board of Education in November
- Access to the full report and executive summary will be available to the public by late October – stay tuned



Pictured above are state level Specialized Instructional Support Personnel (SISPs) working collaboratively in developing recommendations to establish a sustainable workforce of SISPs in order to support a continuum of school mental health services. *From left*-Elizabeth Munson, School Social Worker, Wake County Public School System & Past President of NC School Social Workers' Association, Cynthia Floyd-Consultant for School Counseling - NC DPI, Ann Nichols-State School Health Nurse Consultant –NC Division of Public Health, and Lynn Makor-Consultant for School Psychology –NC DPI.

EVERY STUDENT SUCCEEDS ACT – UPDATES:

- The draft of North Carolina's state plan for the federal [Every Student Succeeds Act \(ESSA\)](#) has been [posted to the NCDPI website for your feedback](#).
- ESSA replaces the No Child Left Behind (NCLB) legislation and will guide public education.
- [This is your opportunity to provide feedback](#) on what you believe should be included in our plan to educate children in North Carolina public schools.
- To access the draft plan, click [here](#)
- Be sure to read the introductory pages. Areas where feedback is requested are highlighted in yellow; however, please feel free to comment on any area of the draft plan.
- Comments or questions should be submitted through the Let's Talk System linked on the left of the [NCDPI website](#).
- Public comment sessions are also being held across the state (see information below).

SCHOOL PSYCHOLOGISTS WERE HIGHLY VISIBLE DURING THE FIRST ROUND OF PUBLIC COMMENT SESSIONS HELD BY NC DPI.

THE SAME LEVEL OF VISIBILITY IS ENCOURAGED DURING THIS SECOND ROUND OF PUBLIC COMMENT SESSIONS

Public comment session information:

- North Carolina Department of Public Instruction (NCDPI) staff have scheduled a second round of six public comment sessions to receive feedback from educators, parents, students and other stakeholders on the state's K-12 Education Plan for the *Every Student Succeeds Act* (ESSA).
- Public input will help guide the development of the state's plan for complying with the new federal education law approved in December 2015 to replace *No Child Left Behind*.
- The purpose of this second round of sessions is to provide opportunities for the public to make comments on the *rough* draft of the state's plan, which is posted on NCDPI's [ESSA website](#). Please note that the state plan is a draft and does not contain answers to the many questions that must be answered before a final plan can be submitted to the US Department of Education in March 2017. There are many placeholders throughout the draft document where additional information will be placed in the state plan after those decisions are made based on feedback that NCDPI receives over the next few months.

Schedule of Public Input Sessions

The remaining dates and locations are as follows:

Geographical Area	Date	Location/Venue
Fayetteville	TO BE RE-SCHEDULED	Long Hill Elementary, Auditorium 6490 Ramsey Street, Fayetteville
Tarboro	TO BE RE-SCHEDULED	Tarboro High School, Media Center 1400 Howard Avenue, Tarboro
Waynesville	Monday, Oct. 24	Tuscola High School, Auditorium 564 Tuscola School Road, Waynesville
Burlington	Tuesday, Oct. 25	Career and Technical Education Center 2550 Buckingham Road, Burlington

Please note the following:

- Each session will be held from 5-7 p.m., with the exception of Tarboro, which will be from 4-6 p.m.
- Anyone may attend a session in any region.
- Audience members who want to speak (up to 3 minutes) should sign in by 5:15 p.m. at each session (by 4:15 p.m. in Tarboro) and are invited (but not required) to bring a copy of their remarks to submit into the record of the event.
- A recording and notes from each session also will be taken.

Again, in addition to these in-person sessions, the public is invited to submit comments to NCDPI through *Let's Talk*.

Simply click on the [Let's Talk link](#) and select the ESSA dialog topic when prompted.

If this newsletter was forwarded to you by a colleague and you would like to receive it directly, sign up for the [DPI School Psychology Listserv](#)

MULTI-TIERED SYSTEM OF SUPPORT:

Each newsletter will include MTSS Implementation updates relevant to school psychologists.

The focus for this issue is general awareness of MTSS implementation.

Can you **identify** your district/charter's MTSS Cohort? – If not, ask.

Are you **connected** with your district/charter MTSS Team? – If not, start getting connected.

Do you **advocate** for school psychologist involvement on district/charter MTSS Implementation teams? – If not, begin advocating—how can you help to support district/school installation of MTSS?

Does your district/charter have a **two-way communication loop** established between district/charter MTSS teams and school psychology department? – If not, encourage this to happen.

It is essential for school psychologists to be aware and involved as their respective districts/charter schools/state operated programs move forward in installing an MTSS.

At the time of this newsletter publication, there are 112 traditional LEAs, 51 charter schools, and 4 state operated programs participating in MTSS cohorts 1-4.

Stay connected & learn more:

Join the [MTSS Listserve](#)

Follow us on Twitter @ncmtss

Like us on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/ncmtss>

IN CASE YOU MISSED IT!

The Children & Youth Committee of the NC Brain Injury Advisory Council (in collaboration with NC DPI's Healthy Schools Section, Specialized Instructional Support Personnel, and School-Based Practice Advisory Council on TBI), has been involved in some very important work throughout the past year:

The work on Concussion Monitoring (mTBI) was organized and implemented across several phases, with current results of the work to include:

- Education Policy ([SBE HRS-E-001](#)) on concussion management for ALL students (extends beyond Gfeller-Waller/student athletes & playing field)
- Development of an [Implementation Guide](#) to support all public schools across NC to meet the policy requirements
- Development of a [Parent Brochure](#) to support a uniform system of communication (medical provider, parent, and school) regarding concussion management for ALL children and youth in NC public schools
- The C&Y committee continues to work on installing this brochure in ALL medical provider networks across the state

Additionally, professional learning opportunities regarding these efforts, the policy and guidance to support effective implementation will be ongoing and shared with pediatric nurse practitioners, school nurses, school psychologists, and school counselors across the state.

Share your district's or charter school's story regarding implementation of [HRS-E-001](#) by emailing a video clip or summary of your efforts to:

DPIschoolpsychology@gmail.com



Learn more about how school psychologists can take a leadership role in concussion monitoring by reading the recent article featured in NASP's Communique: [The School Psychologist as Concussion Team Leader](#)

School Psychology and Whole School, Whole Community, Whole Child Model



Specialized Instructional Support Personnel (school psychologists, school counselors, school nurses, school social workers), as well as other educators, understand that each student’s education extends well beyond the academic subject areas. The importance of educating the whole child is beginning to be more fully understood by all, as evidenced by some of the recent activity occurring at the state level.

- The NC State Board of Education and Department of Public Instruction convened an Interagency Advisory Committee earlier this year, as described in [State Board Policy TCS-B-009](#), for the purpose of identifying, reviewing and making recommendations related to the challenges that face our at-risk school-aged population, such as poverty, safety, health and other non-academic barriers.
- The work of the [NC School Mental Health Initiative](#), as well as the development of the [NC’s plan to implement the federal Every Student Succeeds Act](#) are also very connected into addressing the needs of NC public school students through a whole child approach.

The field of school psychology, at both the national and state level, has been continuously advocating for school psychologists to be utilized effectively. The comprehensive implementation of school psychological services ultimately supports teachers’ ability to teach and students’ ability to learn, and is a cost-effective investment in the success of ALL students.

By focusing on youth, addressing critical education and health outcomes, organizing collaborative actions and initiatives that support students, and strongly engaging community resources, the Whole School/Community/Child approach aligns closely with the standards of practice that are established for school psychologists, making these professionals key collaborators to effectively support these coordinated efforts around school health.

If you would like to strengthen your delivery of comprehensive school psychological services, opportunities exist all around you.

For more information and resources to help advocate for a whole-child approach at your school:

- Visit [The Whole Child Education](#) website
- Read the recent article published in the June 2016 edition of NASP’s Communique: [The Whole School, Whole Community, Whole Child Model: An Opportunity for School Psychologists to Show Leadership](#).
- Learn how the [WSCC Model](#) is being discussed or implemented in your building or district
- Learn about the activities of your local [School Health Advisory Council \(SHAC\)](#)...better yet, investigate whether there is an opportunity for school psychologist representation on your local SHAC!

UPCOMING PROFESSIONAL LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES:

66th Conference on Exceptional Children

November 8 – 10, 2016

Koury Convention Center, Sheraton Greensboro Hotel at Four Seasons

Self-Assessment: A Journey of Change is the theme of the 66th Conference on Exceptional Children, North Carolina's largest gathering of educational professionals and parents of children with disabilities.

Please join us for numerous enriching activities:

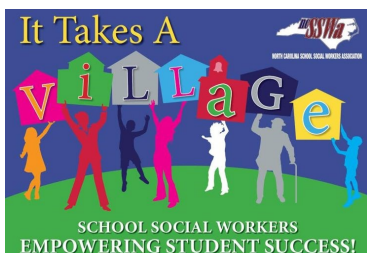
- An uplifting Plenary Session with inspiring keynote presentation,
- Over 90 informative Instructional Sessions covering the broad spectrum of exceptional children education,
- The Educators of Excellence reception honoring outstanding North Carolina special educators,
- A Poster Display of innovative programs and practices,
- The School-Based Enterprise Bazaar showcasing products being created and marketed by North Carolina Public School students with disabilities,
- Exhibitor/Vendor area that offers interactions with organizations and companies specializing in serving exceptional children.

Come be an integral part of this annual gathering in Greensboro of more than 3,000 professionals and parents, all working together to improve educational outcomes for all students!

- [Registration](#)
- [Conference At-A-Glance](#)
- [EC Conference and Pre-conference Institute Descriptions](#)

North Carolina School Social Workers Association Fall Conference

October 26-28, 2016, Embassy Suites, Concord, NC



North Carolina School Counselor Association Fall Conference

November 2– 4, 2016, Koury Convention Center, Greensboro, NC.

Archived Professional Learning:

The following webinars were offered during the summer months and are now available:

Implementing Return-to-Learn (Concussion Monitoring)

[Access the webinar](#)

[Access the slides](#)

Special Education Decision-Making Through the Use of Multiple Sources of Data

[Access the webinar](#)

[Access the slides](#)

Supporting Appropriate Evaluation and Identification of SLD – A Framework to Guide Implementation

[Access the webinar](#)

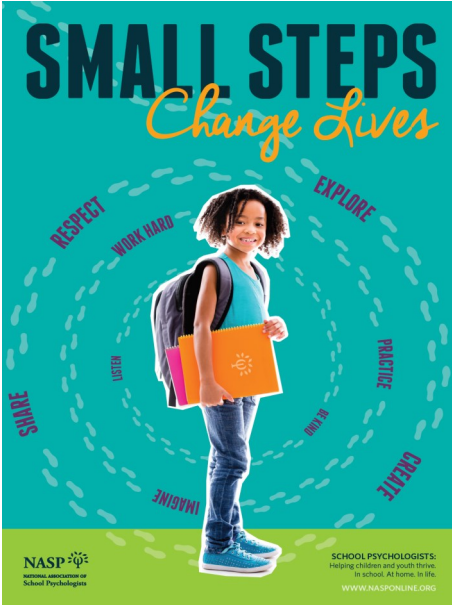
[Access the slides](#)

Understanding DPI Licensure Parameters – Information for School Psychologists and Supervisors of School Psychologists

[Access the webinar](#)

[Access the slides](#)

SCHOOL PSYCHOLOGY AWARENESS WEEK IS NOVEMBER 14-18



SHARE YOUR STORIES!
Bring the important work of school psychologists to the forefront during this week:
Submit highlights/video clips of the "small steps" you are taking to have an impact on students
These highlights/videos will be shared daily throughout the week of 11/14-11/18

This year's theme, "Small Steps Change Lives," reminds both students and adults how their small actions can add up to larger, positive changes. School psychologists play a vital role in supporting students as they work to achieve their goals, both big and small. Students begin to recognize how the small actions they take over the course of time—studying, practicing, being respectful, exploring—make a big difference in their lives as well as the lives of others. Individual small steps help build the path to creating a positive, connected, and respectful school community.

Adaptable resources are available at NASP for planning your SPAW activities. From sample newsletters, to interactive classroom activities, to press releases, there are multiple ways to bring the "Small Steps Change Lives" theme to your local community.

Find the Bright Spots...and then replicate them

Let's not end this on November 18th

Let's begin shining a spotlight on school psychology departments and/or individuals that are doing great work across the state on a regular basis throughout the school year.

School Psychologists are invited to share their great work by submitting their stories/ highlights/video clips from across the state.

Whether you are:

- Establishing a continuum of school mental health supports at the district or school level
- Working collaboratively to ensure effective installation of an MTSS
- Working with local School Health Advisory Councils (SHACs) on important issues
- Collaborating with other Specialized Instructional Support Personnel (SISPs)
- Advocating for the needs of children with disabilities

...and the list can go on and on!

Please submit!

- All submissions should be emailed to: DPISchoolpsychology@gmail.com.
- Submissions should include the name and brief description of the LEA/school/charter school and school psychologists/other education staff involved, with either a link or contact information for interested parties to obtain additional information.
- The submission should be limited to 100 words or less (or) a brief video (no longer than 5 minutes)

Additional Resources :

- [North Carolina School Psychology Association](#)
- [North Carolina Professional School Psychology Standards](#)
- [National Association of School Psychologists](#)
- [North Carolina State Board of Education](#)
- [North Carolina Department of Public Instruction \(NCDPI\)](#)