

What is a Licensed Specialist in School Psychology?

(Adapted from www.nasponline.org)



Who Are Licensed Specialists in School Psychology (LSSP)?

- Team with educators, parents, and other mental health professionals to provide services in public school settings
- Have specialized training in psychology and education
- Understand school systems, effective teaching, and successful learning



Areas of Training

- Mental Health
- Child Development
- School Organization
- Learning
- Behavior Modification
- Assessment



Training Requirements

- Masters (MS/MA) or Specialist degree (EdS, SSP) requires 60+ hours
- Doctoral degree (PhD, PsyD) requires 90+ Hours
- One year, school-based internship



Licensure/Certification

- Licensed by the Texas State Board of Examiners of Psychologists (www.tsbep.state.tx.us).
- Formal title in Texas is Licensed Specialist in School Psychology (LSSP).
- 12 hours of professional development required each year.
- May also be nationally certified (NCSP).



What Do LSSPs Do?

- Tailor services to the needs of the individual child
- Different approaches include:
 - Consultation
 - Assessment
 - Intervention
 - Prevention
 - Education/Trainings
 - Research and Planning



Consultation

- Provide ideas to parents, teachers, and administrators to improve student progress.
- Participate in student-centered meetings before need for special education services.
- Help others understand child development and its interaction with learning strategies
- Serve as resource regarding federal and state special education law for staff members.
- Strengthen working relationships between parents, educators, and community services



Assessment

- Academic Skills
- Learning Aptitudes
- Personality and Emotional Development
- Social Skills
- Learning Environments and School Climate
- Eligibility for Special Education
- Crisis - Violence/Suicide risk



Intervention

- Conflicts and problems in learning and adjustment
- Counseling (for children and families)
- Social Skills Training and Behavior Management
- Crisis



Prevention

- Identification of learning difficulties
- Design programs for “at-risk” children
- Provide coping skills for disruptive behavior
- Foster appreciation and understanding of diversity
- Develop school-wide safety initiatives



Education/Trainings Provided to School Staff and Parents

- Teaching and Learning Strategies
- Classroom Management Techniques
- Working with Exceptional Children
- Substance Abuse
- Crisis Management



Research and Planning

- Evaluate effectiveness of academic programs and behavior management systems
- Generate knowledge about learning and behavior
- Contribute to planning and evaluating school-wide reform and restructuring



For Further Information:

- www.nasponline.org
- www.txasp.org

