

## Preparing Today's Children for Tomorrow's World

### Mission Statement

School Psychologists in Pasco County seek to create and maintain an atmosphere, which fosters the development of academic and social potential in all students. This mission is aligned with the district's vision and philosophy.

### What is a School Psychologist?

School Psychologists have specialized training in both psychology and education. They use their training and skills to team with educators, parents, and other mental health professionals to facilitate learning in a safe, healthy, and supportive environment. School Psychologists understand school systems, effective teaching, and successful learning.

### What Do School Psychologists Do?

School Psychologists deliver a broad scope of comprehensive services that are tailored to the particular needs of each child, school, and situation. These services include:



### Consultation

- Strengthen working relationships among educators, parents, and community services by offering effective strategies for learning and behavior problems
- Participate in collaborative discussions for purposes of problem solving
- Facilitate communication through parent/student/staff conferences

### Prevention

- Identify potential learning difficulties using screenings and other curriculum-based measures
- Provide parents and teachers with the skills to facilitate positive behavior
- Develop school-wide initiatives to make schools safer and more effective
- Design programs for children at risk
- Help promote tolerance, understanding, and appreciation of diversity in the school community

### Research and Planning

- Share new research-based knowledge about learning and behavior
- Evaluate the effectiveness of academic programs, behavior management systems, and other services
- Contribute to planning and evaluating school-wide reform and reconstruction

### Intervention

- Link assessment results to intervention strategies that are specific to the needs of each student
- Implement progress monitoring to measure intervention effectiveness
- Areas of intervention may include:
  - Academic content areas such as reading, writing, math, and language
  - Communication and social interaction
  - Behavior management
  - Counseling



- Parent training
- Classroom management and school-wide planning
- Crisis Management

### Evaluation

- Use research-based techniques at individual, group, and school levels to evaluate each student's strengths and weaknesses for Academic Improvement Plans (AIP), Individual Education Plans (IEP), Functional Behavior Assessments (FBA), Positive Behavior Support Plans (PBS), and other support services
- Areas of assessment may include:
  - Academic/Cognitive abilities
  - Social skills
  - Behavioral/Emotional issues
  - Instructional methods
  - Learning environments
  - Crisis situations



### Health Care

- Develop partnerships with parents and teachers to create healthy school environments
- Work with children and families to provide integrated community services focusing on wellness and health-related issues
- Collaborate with school and community-based personnel to provide a comprehensive mode of school-linked health services

## What is an Evaluation?

When a child is referred for a “psychological evaluation,” parents may be upset, confused, or worried. It is important to remember that a “referral” merely means that you and/or your child’s teachers need more information in order to better understand how to help your child achieve success at home and at school.

Evaluations address academic and behavioral concerns and are sufficiently comprehensive to identify all of your child’s instructional needs. Evaluation procedures may include: record reviews, classroom observations, interviews with parents, teachers, students, and other school personnel, and individualized tests that reliably measure your child’s strengths and weaknesses.

Informed parental consent and participation in educational planning are important parts of the evaluation process. If your child is referred for an evaluation, you must give permission before formal assessment begins. You may be invited to participate in a conference to discuss referral concerns and provide input. As a parent, you also may request a meeting to obtain more information about evaluation procedures. Upon completion of the evaluation, you will be invited to review the results and recommendations.



## Your School Psychologist

at \_\_\_\_\_ is

\_\_\_\_\_.

Phone Number:

\_\_\_\_\_

Today’s children face more challenges than ever before. School psychologists can provide solutions for tomorrow’s problems through thoughtful and positive actions today. In Pasco County, School Psychologists are working hard to:

- Disseminate information about research-based practices related to instruction and assessment for children in pre-Kindergarten performance for individual children, through 12th Grade.
- Complete assessments that will help guide instruction and improve classrooms, and schools.

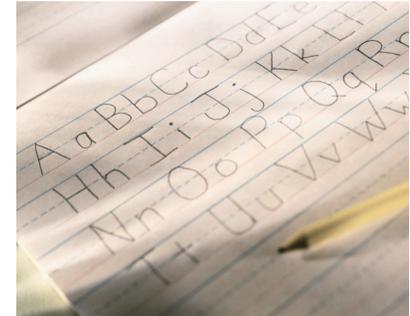
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[www.pasco.k12.fl.us](http://www.pasco.k12.fl.us)



## School Psychologists



“Always  
Reaching for  
Success”

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