



NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF
School Psychologists

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Dear Chairs and Members of the Senate Education Committee,

On behalf of the National Association of School Psychologists (NASP), I write in support of the Interstate Compact for School Psychologists (ICSP). An interstate compact creates a constitutionally authorized contract that enables professionals in good standing to practice in all states that join the compact. A compact allows states to cooperatively address shared problems and respond to national priorities with one voice while enabling states to maintain sovereignty over state-specific issues (e.g., maintain existing licensure pathways, conduct own background checks, address disciplinary actions, establish fees, scope of practice, etc.).

States that join the Compact demonstrate their credentialing alignment with the ICSP's qualifying criteria. These criteria are also aligned with NASP's Professional Standards that guide the graduate preparation and practice of school psychologists. Additional benefits to states include streamlined paperwork, a centralized database of ethical violations, and quicker processing for school psychologist license applications.

The ICSP has several benefits for school psychologists, including promoting uniform practices and credentialing criteria. School psychologists who have spouses in high mobility professions (e.g., military, tech, medicine, science, etc.) directly benefit from the ICSP as the application processing and licensing requirements will be expedited. The ICSP also benefits recipients of school psychological services including increased access to school-based academic, mental, and behavioral health services.

NASP recommends one school psychologist to every 500 students enrolled to ensure comprehensive and preventative services are provided to all students. However, according to ongoing data collection on national school psychologist shortages, Ohio's 2023-2024 ratio was 1:815, far from NASP's recommended ratio. The ICSP will allow qualified school psychologists wanting to provide direct services to students, families, and school communities to do so without delay due to application processes. Enactment of this compact will also reduce the service gaps by increasing the number of school psychologists providing direct services.

NASP fully supports the enactment of the ICSP across states to support the on-going needs of our profession to ensure that highly qualified school psychologists help children thrive in school, at home, and in life.

Please feel free to contact Hiral Vekaria, NASP Director of Leadership Development at hvekaria@naspweb.org and Serena Sowin, NASP Director of Professional Standards at ssowin@naspweb.org with any questions.

Sincerely,

Eric Rossen Ph.D, NCSP, CAE
NASP Executive Director