

# NEWS FROM PSYCHOLOGICAL SERVICES

## National School Psychology Week

November 6-10, 2023

#SchoolPsychWeek

NASP 

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### Let's Grow Together!

The week of November 6-10, 2023 is National School Psychology Week! This year's theme is "Let's Grow Together." The goal of this theme is to highlight the importance of both personal and shared strengths in our growth as individuals and school communities in every season of life.

The theme recognizes four aspects of growth that are critical for productive learning environments:

1. Individuals grow in their own way, often in their own time, which is influenced by engagement and interaction with one's surroundings.
2. Engagement and interaction with others—being part of a vibrant community—supports our growth.
3. Diversity is a powerful ingredient in our growth.
4. Every season contributes to a continuum of growth.

As GCS School Psychologists, we believe that we grow better together! We work with all members of school communities to help create welcoming, inclusive schools; build students' skill sets to help them learn; and evaluate needs and problem-solve solutions.

## Suggested Activities for Schools to Celebrate “Let’s Grow Together”

*Below we have some suggested activities for each day of National School Psychology Week. These can be adapted and modified based on the age, ability levels, and students with whom you work.*

### Monday

Take a minute with your class to think about how you’d each like to grow. Help your students set a goal that they would like to work towards this week. Have them choose one adult that can support them in meeting this goal.

### Tuesday

Talk with your students and have them each identify a strength they have. Have discussions on how that strength helped them reach a group goal or complete a group task.

### Wednesday

Help your students learn to value differences! Challenge them to introduce themselves to someone new and learn something unique about them.

### Thursday

Take a moment to check in with your students. Have them think about the goal they set at the beginning of the week. Are they making growth? Encourage them to reach out to an adult if they need support in achieving their goal.

### Friday

Reflection time! Invite your students to think back on how they used their individual strengths and experiences to grow together with their school community.



Share how you're  
helping students grow  
this week by using the  
hashtag  
**#SchoolPsychWeek**

## How do GCS School Psychologists Support Schools?

Although evaluating students for special education services is a major job function, GCS School Psychologists do much more than assessment! At the core, we are problem-solvers! We provide comprehensive psychological services to support students' academic achievement and social-emotional well-being, including:

- Serving as a consultant to teachers, staff, and parents on a wide range of academic, behavioral, and social emotional needs and concerns.
- Supporting the development, training, and implementation of Multi-Tiered Systems of Supports (MTSS) at the core, supplemental, and intensive levels.
- Serving on Supplemental Problem-Solving (SPS) teams, Intensive Problem-Solving (IPS) teams and other school-based teams, such as Instructional Leadership teams, Social Emotional Learning (SEL) teams, and Attendance teams.
- Providing guidance on Exceptional Children's (EC) processes and supporting students with disabilities.
- Providing guidance on referrals for Mental Health/SEL supports and supporting students with mental health needs.
- Conducting Suicide and Threat Risk Assessments, and providing crisis response and support.
- Supporting the state's Return to Learn (RTL) process for concussion management.
- Conducting Functional Behavior Assessments (FBAs) and helping develop Behavior Intervention Plans (BIPs).
- Providing group and individual counseling to students.
- Modeling and sharing evidence-based academic and behavioral interventions and resources.
- Working with schools on data analysis and data-based decision-making.
- Developing and providing professional development to school and district staff on a wide range of topics.

### SCHOOL PSYCHOLOGISTS

support students' ability to learn and teachers' ability to teach.

#### THEY ARE EXPERTS IN

 Learning
  Behavior
  Mental Health
  School Systems

#### THEY PROVIDE

- Academic and behavioral interventions
- Mental health supports
- Evaluation, assessment, and data analysis
- Consultation with teachers and families
- Culturally responsive services
- Crisis prevention and response

#### THEY SUPPORT

- Struggling and diverse learners
- Academic achievement
- Positive behavior and mental health
- Safe and supportive learning environments
- School-family-community partnerships
- School-wide data-based decision making

#### THEY SERVE IN

- Public and private schools
- Early childhood centers
- Universities
- Juvenile justice facilities
- Clinics and hospitals
- Independent practice

#### RECOMMENDED RATIO

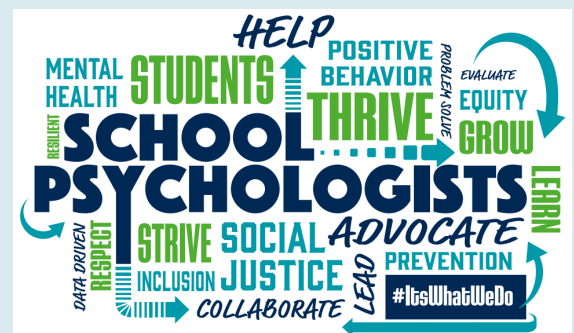
1 school psychologist per 500 students

**Lowering barriers to learning is critical to children's success in school.**

Contact your school psychologist to find out how they can help.

School Psychologists:  
Helping Children Thrive • In School • At Home • In Life  
[www.nasponline.org](http://www.nasponline.org)

**NASP**   
NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF  
School Psychologists





Designed by: Kathryn Morris & Megan Fox  
Content created by: Kathryn Morris & Megan Fox  
Edited by: Gretchen Stumpf



## DID YOU KNOW?

- A School Psychologist is available at every school in GCS.
- We have over 45 School Psychologists on staff serving various roles to support our school community.
- School Psychologists must complete a 60-hour master's degree program or a doctoral program, and a one-year full-time internship prior to employment.
- Many of our staff are Nationally Certified School Psychologists, and some obtain additional licensure by the NC Psychology Board.

### Stay connected with us!



[GCS Psychological Services](#)



[GCS\\_Psychs](#)



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[Psychological Services Canvas Page](#)

### Sources:

[National School Psychology Week \(NSPW\) \(nasponline.org\)](https://www.nasponline.org/)  
<https://www.nasponline.org/about-school-psychology/who-are-school-psychologists>  
<https://www.region10.org/programs/evaluation-special-education/school-psychology/>