

November 8, 2021

Press Release

**SBHA Supports School Psychologists in Helping Students Grow, Engage, Advocate, and Rise  
*NASP Celebrates National School Psychology Week, November 8-12***

November 8, 2021 — Washington, D.C. — School-Based Health Alliance (SBHA) supports the National Association of School Psychologists (NASP) in celebrating National School Psychology Week, November 8-12. This year’s theme, “Let’s Get in Gear,” empowers school psychologists to help students to Grow, Engage, Advocate, and Rise.

All over the country, schools will participate in activities that highlight the vital work of school psychologists, teachers, and other school personnel. According to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, one-in-five students will experience mental and behavioral health concerns and these students are more likely to get mental health support if it is offered in school.<sup>1</sup>

In light of the COVID-19 pandemic, the work of school psychologists is more important than ever. These five days in November will be dedicated to highlighting the important work of school psychologists and other school health personnel throughout the year to help students succeed academically, socially, behaviorally and emotionally.

Specifically, November 10 will focus on the national shortage of school-based psychologists and the vital role these individuals play in the well-being of students. NASP’s research recommends a ratio of one school psychologist for every 500 students; the current nationwide average is one psychologist for every 2,000 students.

School psychologists are uniquely qualified members of school health teams with expertise in mental health, learning, and behavior. They partner with families, teachers, school administrators, and other professionals to create safe, healthy, and supportive learning environments that strengthen connections between home, school, and the community.

Since the beginning of COVID-19, the student mental health crisis has only intensified and further highlighted the need for comprehensive mental and behavioral health supports and social-emotional learning.

“Leading children’s health groups recently [declared](#) what school health providers have witnessed for years – the state of children’s mental health is a national emergency,” said Robert Boyd, President of the School-Based Health Alliance. “School psychologists are critical partners with other school health personnel, administrators, educators, and community providers in meeting the growing need for quality mental health services for students and families.”

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<sup>1</sup> [https://www.samhsa.gov/sites/default/files/ready\\_set\\_go\\_review\\_mh\\_screening\\_in\\_schools\\_508.pdf](https://www.samhsa.gov/sites/default/files/ready_set_go_review_mh_screening_in_schools_508.pdf)

To learn more about National School Psychology Week or to download a toolkit for your organization, visit [https://www.nasponline.org/research-and-policy/advocacy/national-school-psychology-week-\(nspw\)](https://www.nasponline.org/research-and-policy/advocacy/national-school-psychology-week-(nspw)).

To learn more about SBHA's initiatives and actions for NSPW Week, visit [www.sbh4all.org](http://www.sbh4all.org).

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*Since 1995, the School-Based Health Alliance (SBHA), a 501(c) (3) nonprofit corporation, has supported and advocated for high-quality healthcare in schools for the nation's most vulnerable children. Working at the intersection of healthcare and education, SBHA is recognized as a leader in the field and a source for information on best practices by philanthropic, federal, state, and local partners and policymakers. There are over 2,500 school-based health centers (SBHCs) in the United States. Health centers sponsor over 50 percent of SBHCs, partnering with schools and sharing a vision for student health and academic outcomes. For more information on school-based health care visit [www.sbh4all.org](http://www.sbh4all.org) or email [info@sbh4all.org](mailto:info@sbh4all.org).*