

## School Psychology

A specialty of professional psychology, school psychology is "the application of psychological knowledge and skills within educational settings to directly or indirectly enhance the development and learning of children" (Thomas. 1 996, p. 345). Though most practitioners work in public school settings, they increasingly deliver services in other settings, including private schools, clinics, correctional institutions, private practice, and colleges and universities. Broadly considered a school psychologist is a professional psychological practitioner whose general purpose is to bring a psychological perspective to bear on the problems of educators and the clients educators serve. This perspective is derived from a broad base of training in educational and psychological foundations as well as specialty preparation, resulting in the provision of comprehensive psychological services of a direct and indirect nature (Pagan & Wise. 1994. p. 3) (...)

A detailed definition has also been approved by the International School Psychology Association (Oakland & Cunningham. 1997).

There are an estimated 25,000 persons in the field of school psychology in the United States and perhaps 87.000 worldwide (Oakland & Cunningham, 1992) employed under various titles. most often "school psychologist" or "educational psychologist." (...)

School psychologists distribute their services across the areas of assessment, consultation, interventions, administrative assignments, continuing education and professional growth, in-service teaching and staff development, research, and program evaluation. Assessment, consultation, and intervention activities account for more than 90% of practitioner time. Assessment services for children with suspected disabilities have broadened in the past 20 years to incorporate alternatives to standardized assessment and to include more consultation and interventions with both exceptional and regular schoolchildren. (...)

The roles and functions of practitioners will remain similar so long as schools are responsible for the education and general health care of exceptional and at-risk student populations. Subspecialty training by some practitioners will continue to expand services in specific areas. such as services for preschool children. Postsecondary school services. and neuropsychology.

**Reference:** Fagan, T. K. (2000). *School Psychology*. In. Kazdin, A. E. (Ed.). *Encyclopedia of psychology* Vol. 7. (pp. 176-180). Washington, DC: American Psychological Association.