



NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF
School Psychologists

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Dear Chairs and Members of the 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, maintain sovereignty over issues belonging to states, and respond to national priorities with one voice.

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 expedited processing of applications through the ICSP. The ICSP also benefits recipients of school psychological services including increased access to school-based academic, mental and behavioral health services.

NASP recommends a school psychologist-to-student ratio of 1:500 to ensure comprehensive and preventative services are provided to all students. However, according to ongoing data collection on national school psychologist shortages, Maryland's 2024-2025 ratio was 1:1037 far from NASP's recommended ratio. The ICSP will allow qualified school psychologists to provide direct services to students, families, and school communities without delay due to application processes. Enactment of this compact will 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 for our profession to ensure that highly qualified school psychologists help children thrive in school, at home and in life.

Sincerely,

Eric Rossen Ph.D, NCSP, CAE
Executive Director