Florida Association of School Psychologists Legislative Platform—2027

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FASP's Mission

The mission of the Florida Association of School Psychologists is to promote and advocate for the mental health and educational development of Florida's children, youth, and families and to advance the profession of school psychology.

FASP SUPPORTS LEGISLATIVE EFFORTS TO:

INCREASE ACCESS TO MENTAL, BEHAVIORAL, AND ACADEMIC SUPPORTS

Nearly 6 students in each classroom report significant sadness or anxiety. Additionally, nearly 4 students in each classroom are identified as having a learning disability. FASP supports legislation that promotes access to evidence-based preventive and responsive mental health services in schools, as well as comprehensive evaluations to identify and monitor learner needs, implemented by certified and licensed professionals (school psychologists, counselors, and social workers).

RECOGNIZE SCHOOL PSYCHOLOGY AS A CRITICAL SHORTAGE AREA

Because Florida faces a shortage of school psychologists at a current ratio of 1 psychologist to 2,000 students (the National Association of School Psychologists recommends 1 to 500), FASP advocates for recruitment incentives, including paid internships, competitive salaries, and loan forgiveness, to address the critical shortage and meet student needs.

INCREASE IMPLEMENTATION OF EFFECTIVE SCHOOL-WIDE DISCIPLINE POLICIES AND PRACTICES

FASP advocates for increasing the use of proactive, supportive behavioral interventions. School psychologists are highly trained in strategies such as Positive Behavioral Supports to intervene to improve student behavior, reduce exclusionary discipline, and improve academic outcomes and campus safety. FASP opposes the use of suspension and expulsion, except in cases where student and staff safety and welfare are concerned, and the invalidated practice of corporal punishment.

ADDRESS DATA ELEMENTS RELATED TO SCHOOL -INITIATED BAKER ACTS

FASP advocates that schools report additional data on Baker Act use, such as race, grade, gender, and disability status, for greater transparency and support. FASP also advocates for school psychologists to be authorized to initiate Baker Acts in response to student crises.

SUPPORT POLICIES AND LEGISLATION THAT AFFIRM THE RIGHTS OF ALL OF FLORIDA STUDENTS

FASP is committed to educational equity and the protection of students' rights. FASP opposes any policies or practices that discriminate against individuals based on race, sex, gender identity, immigration status, home language, or any other characteristic.

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FASP Outstanding Legislator Awardees

2025
Representative Wallace Aristide

2024
Representative Christine Hunschofsky

2023
Senator Keith Perry

2022
Representative Allison Tant

2021
Senator Lori Berman

2020
Representative Jennifer Necole Webb

2019
Senator Kelli Stargel

2018
Senator Kathleen Passidomo

2017
Representative Gayle Harrell

Legacy Award for Distinguished Service to Children

2009
Senator Eleanor Sobel

How can FASP be of service?

The FASP Executive Board can provide expertise and timely information to members of the Florida legislature and staff on multiple topics including general education, exceptional student education, educational data, grade retention and student progression, the mental health and well-being of students, school safety, improving educational equity, multi-tiered systems of support (MTSS), progress monitoring and supports for students struggling academically, emotionally, and behaviorally. Please contact us for more information or to discuss areas where we can support.

LOBBYIST INFORMATION

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