

# PROTECT USE OF THE TITLE “SCHOOL PSYCHOLOGIST”

Please use the instructions below to submit a comment to the APA ahead of the February 29, 2024 deadline. Suggested messages are included below. The voice of every school psychologist is critical!



## OVERVIEW

The American Psychological Association (APA) is seeking public comments as it considers revisions to the Model Act for State Licensure of Psychologists (Model Act). The Model Act provides language to guide state agencies in regulating the licensure of psychologists. APA generally recommends that the use of the title “psychologist” be reserved for individuals with a doctoral degree (e.g., PhD, PsyD), but since 1977, the Model Act has included an exemption to allow school psychologists trained at the specialist level and working in school settings to use the title “school psychologist,” an exemption that NASP has successfully advocated to maintain in previous versions of the Model Act.

NASP standards recognize the specialist level of preparation (defined by a minimum 3-year, 60- graduate semester hour degree in school psychology, including a 1,200-hour internship, 600 of which must occur in a school setting) as the entry level requirement to obtain a credential as a school psychologist. It is imperative that our members voice the importance of maintaining the ability for specialist level, state credentialed school psychologists to use the title “school psychologist” in any revision of the Model Act.



## ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

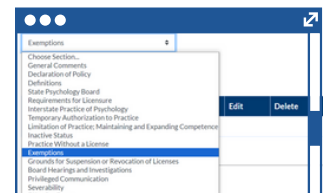
Use these links to learn more about NASP positions and standards related to this issue.

- [Necessary Use of the Title “School Psychologist”](#)
- [School Psychology Credentialing Resources](#)
- [NASP 2020 Professional Standards](#)



## INSTRUCTIONS

1. [Click here](#) or scan the QR code to submit a comment.
2. Enter your information:
  - a. For “place of employment” you are welcome to simply state the setting in which you work if you do not want to name your specific district, school, or university.
  - b. For current work setting/practice specialty, note “school.”
  - c. Note that you are submitting personal comments. If you are employed by a school district or state or local education agency (including an educational service agency), you would select “psychologist in a nonprofit or government setting.”
  - d. Under “Section,” choose “Exemptions” from the drop-down list as shown here.



## SAMPLE COMMENT

*This language can be placed in the “Add Comment” box or adapted to reflect your additional thoughts.*

It is imperative that any revisions to the Model Act for State Licensure of Psychologists maintain the exemption for use of the title “school psychologist” as outlined in Section J.3. The historical, legal, and publicly accepted understanding of what specialist and doctoral level school psychologists do to support students, families, and schools in everyday practice is inextricably tied to the use of the title “school psychologist.”