

IS A CAREER AS A SCHOOL PSYCHOLOGIST RIGHT FOR YOU?



WHAT IS A SCHOOL PSYCHOLOGIST?

A school psychologist is a professional who works in schools to help students succeed academically, socially, emotionally, and behaviorally. They do things like provide counseling, give advice to teachers and families, test students to understand their needs, and help during emergencies or when there are serious issues.

WHAT DOES A SCHOOL PSYCHOLOGIST DO IN SCHOOLS?

The job of a school psychologist can be different depending on the needs of the school. Some of their main tasks include:

- Working with agencies to provide students with extra support outside of school.
- Providing counseling to students, either one-on-one or in groups.
- Working with teachers to help them manage their classrooms.
- Teaching social and emotional skills.
- Creating plans to help students with their behavior and academics.
- Providing training on child development, mental health, and effective teaching techniques.
- Testing students to understand their academic, emotional, social, and behavior needs.

YOU MIGHT ENJOY A CAREER AS A SCHOOL PSYCHOLOGIST IF YOU:

- Are interested in mental health and how people learn
- Enjoy listening to people and giving advice when they need help
- Are a good problem-solver and like finding solutions
- Like having the freedom to manage your own tasks and schedule
- Are flexible and can handle a job with different tasks and challenges

VOICES FROM THE FIELD: MEET A SCHOOL PSYCHOLOGIST

“Working with students is, by far, my favorite part of this career.”

Melanie Christy
School Psychologist
Windber Area School District

Click the names or scan the QR codes to watch the interviews.

[Melanie Christy](#)

School Psychologist
Windber Area School District



[Christian Giannone](#)

DePaul School for Hearing
and Speech



HOW TO BECOME A SCHOOL PSYCHOLOGIST IN PENNSYLVANIA:

In Pennsylvania, becoming a school psychologist requires advanced, specialized training in both education and psychology.

Educational Requirements:

- Obtain a bachelor's degree in psychology, education, or related field.
- Earn a specialist-level graduate degree or doctoral degree in school psychology from an [Approved School Psychology Graduate Program](#).
- Complete a 1,200-hour internship, with at least 600 hours in a school setting.

Licensure:

- Obtain an [Educational Specialist certification](#) from the Pennsylvania Department of Education (PDE), which requires passing the [Praxis School Psychologist Exam](#).
- Apply for Pennsylvania State Certification through the [Pennsylvania Department of Education](#).



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