School Psychologist

**Roles and Responsibilities:** School psychologists provide direct support and interventions to students, families and other school professionals; work with school administrators to improve schoolwide practices and policies; and collaborate with community providers to coordinate needed services.

**Information about School Psychologists:** Ohio Department of Education licensure requirements include the following: 1) a master’s or Education Specialist (Ed.S.) degree in school psychology; 2) a 1200-hour internship; and 3) passing the Praxis School Psychologist exam.

**School Psychologists are Trained to:**
- Conduct psychological and academic assessments and collect and interpret student and classroom data;
- Support teachers in providing individualized instruction and interventions and progress monitoring;
- Promote positive student and classroom behavior while encouraging student motivation/engagement;
- Improve students’ development, including communication, social skills and social-emotional learning;
- Assess students’ emotional and behavioral needs; provide individual/group counseling;
- Promote problem-solving, anger management, resilience and conflict resolution;
- Provide individual and group counseling; coordinate services with community-based providers;
- Provide culturally responsive services to students and families from diverse backgrounds;
- Assess diverse learning needs and modify or adapt curricula and instruction;
- Plan appropriate individualized education programs for students with disabilities;
- Monitor and effectively communicate with parents about student progress;
- Implement schoolwide positive behavioral supports, positive discipline and restorative justice;
- Assess school climate and improve school connectedness;
- Identify at-risk students and school vulnerabilities; prevent bullying and other forms of violence;
- Provide crisis prevention and intervention services;
- Help families understand children’s learning and emotional needs;
- Connect families with community service providers when necessary;
- Enhance staff understanding of and responsiveness to diverse cultures and backgrounds;
- Assist in navigating special education processes;
- Generate, collect and interpret useful student and school outcomes data;
- Collect and analyze data on risk and protective factors related to student outcomes;
- Plan services at the district, building, classroom and individual levels.

**References**