

Representative Margaret Doherty, Chair
Representative Teresa Alonso Leon, Vice Chair
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House Committee on Education

Oregon School Psychologist Association

March 1, 2019

Support for House Bill 2224 Relating to Student Wellness

The Oregon School Psychologist Association represents school psychologists in the state of Oregon. We support House Bill 2224 relating to student wellness. Access to comprehensive school-based social emotional and mental health resources is critical to student success, yet only 16% of children who need mental health services receive them. Approximately 80% of the children who do gain access receive them in school settings (Baffour, 2016, para. 9). This indicates the most effective model for providing access to crucial mental health services for students is by providing them in the schools by people who are trained to work within school systems. In Oregon, only 8% of schools have full time school psychologists (Baffour, 2016). The National Association of School Psychologists recommends ratios should not exceed 500 to 700 students for 1 school psychologist and ratios should be lower to support students with special needs (NASP, 2010). School psychologists are mental health professionals with unique and extensive training in behavioral theory, research, statistics, evidenced based interventions, and school systems who can provide:

Evidence based mental health services	Data based decision making for Multi-Tiered Systems of Supports (MTSS)
<ul style="list-style-type: none">● school wide positive behavior interventions and supports and social emotional learning● crisis prevention and intervention● counseling● functional behavior assessments and behavior support plans● suicide and threat screenings● safety plans and escalation response plans	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● assist school teams in determining precise problems, identifying solutions, and evaluating outcomes of solutions● identify and progress monitor students in need of more support● conduct valid needs assessments● select evidence-based interventions● conduct program evaluation of evidenced based interventions

By expanding access to evidence based social emotional and mental supports in schools, the Oregon School Psychologists Association wishes to provide a foundation to Oregon children to support their success. We urge the passage of House Bill 2224. Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Baffour, (2016, September 22). *Counsel or Criminalize? Why Students of Color Need Supports, Not Suspensions*. Center For American Progress Retrieved from <https://cdn.americanprogress.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/09/21142816/SupportNotSuspensions-brief.pdf>

National Association of School Psychologists. (2010). Model for comprehensive and integrated school psychological services, NASP practice model overview. Retrieved from https://www.nasponline.org/assets/Documents/Standards%20and%20Certification/Standards/2_PracticeModel.pdf

National Association of School Psychologists. School Psychologists Qualified Health Professionals Providing Child and Adolescent Mental and Behavioral Health Services. Retrieved from <https://www.nasponline.org/x32089.xml>