



School Psychology Updates

North Carolina Department of Public Instruction

March 2019

NCSP Credential Now Recognized in NC

On November 1 2018, during their monthly meeting, the [NC State Board of Education](#) approved a change to the licensure policy that now allows the NCSP credential to be accepted for a continuing professional license. This change is a step in the right direction and is intended to remove barriers to licensing of **qualified school psychology applicants** interested in pursuing employment in North Carolina. See specific changes to the policy (LICN-001) below:

School psychology shall be restricted to the sixth-year and doctorate levels, and school social work may be earned at the bachelor's level. ***The Nationally Certified School Psychologist credential (NCSP) issued by the National Association of School Psychologists will be accepted for a continuing professional license to the extent that such certification remains aligned with the licensure requirements for the state of North Carolina. Should the requirements change for NCSP certification, NCDPI will reevaluate to determine whether the revised NCSP will continue to be used as an eligibility requirement for the continuing professional license.***

Source: [SBE Policy Manual, LICN-001 General Licensure Requirements](#)

Upon this approval, the National Association of School Psychologists was notified of this change and responded quickly by updating [North Carolina's School Psychology Credentialing Requirements](#) page on the national website to reflect this change. Additionally, NC is now included on NASP's additional webpage reflecting the [list of states](#) that recognize the NCSP credential. This improves NC's visibility and appeal to out-of-state employment candidates and is a step in the right direction to close the significant employment gaps that exist in the field of school psychology across the state. Although much more is needed to yield solutions that will improve capacity and student access to school psychological services, this step is worth acknowledging and celebrating.

NC State Board of Education's Expansion Budget Includes 71.5 Million for School Psychologists and Other Specialized Instructional Support Personnel

In late Fall, the [NC State Board of Education approved the 2% expansion budget of 191M](#). State Board and State Superintendent priorities were reflected through the largest funding request of \$71.5M towards additional school support personnel. The focus to increase support staff, by providing additional school resource officers, psychologists, social workers, counselors and nurses, is now being advocated to the Governor and legislators for their consideration. **To remain up-to-date on this and other legislative priorities, subscribe to the *Weekly K-12 Legislative Update* by following the subscription process linked [here](#).**

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NC's Visibility during 2019 NASP Convention

The annual convention of the National Association of School Psychologists was held three weeks ago in Atlanta. This year, NC was in the spotlight throughout the convention, attended by over 5000 school psychologists and other professionals. **The two major recognitions awarded during this convention were won by our very own North Carolina practitioners.**

- **Rhonda Armistead**, (pictured in collage below), was awarded the **2019 Lifetime Achievement Award**. Rhonda is recently retired from Charlotte Mecklenburg Schools, where she served as a lead school psychologist for many years. This is the first time ever in the history of this award that a practitioner, rather than a published researcher or academic scholar, has received this award.
- **Leigh Bass Kokenes**, (also pictured in collage below), was named the **2019 National School Psychologist of the Year**. Leigh is currently a school psychologist in Wake County Public School System and serves in leadership roles within the North Carolina School Psychology Association.

Read more about Rhonda's and Leigh's tremendous accomplishments and service in the [2019 NASP Awards Ceremony Program](#).

On May 2, 2019, the NC State Board of Education will recognize Rhonda and Leigh for their accomplishments during their [monthly meeting](#) in Raleigh. School psychologists are invited to attend, or, tune in and listen to the live audio stream.

Additional highlights of NC's strong presence and visibility in promoting our profession are pictured below. These include: recognition of Charlotte Mecklenburg's School Psychology Department for their participation in the *Excellence in School Psychological Services Recognition Program* Pilot Project, NC school psychologists in action working with state legislators, volunteers working tirelessly at the NC recruitment booth, and, a "Sea of Red" that washed through the convention during a full day t-shirt campaign.

Great Job North Carolina School Psychologists!

