

School Psychology Services

Introduction

School Psychologists are assigned to each school to provide support to students with additional learning, social-emotional, sensory, health and/or behavioural needs.

School Psychology services include:

- ~ direct consultation with students, parents, school and district staff, other professionals and community agencies e.g. BC Children's Hospital
- ~ assistance in monitoring student progress and contributing to the design and evaluation of an Individual Education Plan
- ~ learning and behavior assessment and comprehensive psycho-educational assessment
- ~ review of private assessments to determine learning needs; assist in referral for district programs, exam adjudication requests and Ministry identification of special needs
- ~ consultation and collaboration with the school based resource team (SBRT)

All North Vancouver School Psychologists are certified by the BC Association of School Psychologists (BCASP). They may also be members of the College of Psychologists of BC.

Student Profile:

School Psychologists provide support to schools and students. The first level of support is the classroom teacher. The teacher identifies a child's learning strengths and weaknesses and will work with parents to develop support strategies and interventions.

The needs of most students who have mild to moderate difficulties in learning and adjustment are addressed through classroom-based interventions.

If despite classroom based interventions, a student continues to have difficulties, additional assessment and intervention may be required.

Information for Schools, Parents and Students

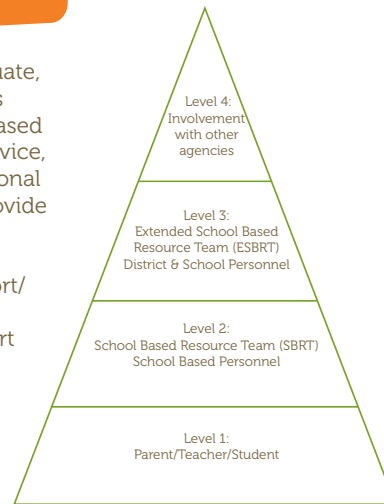
Referral Process

If these supports are not adequate, the classroom teacher consults with members of the School Based Resource Team (Level 2) for advice, support and assistance. Additional school personnel who may provide additional services include:

- ~ Learning Assistance/Support/Resource Teacher
- ~ Learning/Behaviour Support Worker
- ~ Speech & Language Pathologist
- ~ School Counsellor
- ~ School Psychologist



North Vancouver School District Service Delivery Model of Support



What can I expect when the Psycho-Educational Assessment is complete?

Once the Psycho-educational Assessment is complete, a number of activities typically take place.

- ~ Meetings are arranged with the parents and teachers. Within these meetings, the school psychologist explains the assessment results and answers any questions.
- ~ Recommendations or suggestions for learning strategies, supports, interventions and services are provided and discussed collaboratively with parents, teachers and other school personnel.
- ~ An Individual Education Plan (IEP) for the child may be developed, amended or revised.
- ~ A copy of the psycho-educational report is issued to the parents. Reports are only released to other agencies or professionals with signed parent permission.
- ~ A copy of the psycho-educational report is placed in the school file.
- ~ Any appropriate requests for Ministry of Education designation purposes are discussed with the parents and school personnel before referral to district administration.
- ~ The school psychologist provides ongoing consultation on the child's behalf.

Psycho-Educational Assessment

When might school psychology services be needed?

If a student:

- ~ is not acquiring basic skills in reading, spelling, writing or arithmetic
- ~ has not responded to significant and consistent learning interventions
- ~ demonstrates 'average' performance in some areas of achievement and has severe difficulties in others
- ~ shows general delays in many areas
- ~ has learning problems not accounted for by other medical conditions, environmental, cultural or linguistic factors
- ~ shows behavior and/or social-emotional difficulties

What does a Psycho-Educational Assessment involve?

The primary purpose is to provide information that enhances understanding of the child in order to guide development of appropriate and relevant interventions for the student's educational program.

1. Following parent consultation, the child's teacher requests an assessment through the Extended School Based Resource Team (Level 3).
2. Signature of a parent indicating consent is required prior to assessment.
3. The school psychologist contacts parents to:
 - a) discuss the reason for referral;
 - b) obtain background information (e.g., relevant medical, developmental and family history);
 - c) explain the testing that is to be included in the assessment (e.g., cognitive, processing, academic, behavioral).
4. Following parent consultation, assessment and observation sessions are scheduled at the school.