

Ways to Advocate for Individuals You Serve and For Your Profession

Suggestions for advocacy within your school system:

1. In response to a Crisis situation, provide relevant resources to Administrators/Supervisors (i.e. How do people respond to traumatic events? The Grief Process, How do children respond to a natural disaster? Children and Stress handout, etc.)
2. Ask to be put on committees within your school system that are outside the Special Education realm but address serving children's needs or mental health issues (i.e. Gifted Advisory Committee, School Improvement Committee, Health Awareness Committee, Safe Schools and Drug Free Committee, etc.)
3. Promote School Psychology Awareness Week (Nov. 9-13, 2009)
 - a. Provide a basket of goodies at each school promoting School Psychology Awareness Week
 - b. Make a packet (i.e. Brochure – What is a School Psychologists?, bookmarks, note pads, candy, etc.) for your School Board members to bring attention to School Psychology Awareness Week
 - c. Put a FYI handout in each teachers' mailbox on a relevant topic
 - d. Ask your school system to recognize School Psychology Awareness Week with a proclamation (sample proclamation is found on the NASP website)
4. Ask an Administrator or Supervisor write a letter of support for NASP efforts against the APA Model Licensure Act. Sample letters are found on the NASP website: www.nasponline.org click on "advocacy/public policy" section
5. Ask if you can write a letter for an upcoming Parent Resource Center newsletter. Each school system in Virginia has a Parent Resource Center.
6. Ask if there is a workshop that you can provide for the Parent Resource Center
7. Provide a workshop after school open to all school personnel in your school(s) on behavior management (i.e. How to work with difficult kids, etc.)
8. Keep track of your services that you provide in your schools. Share a year end summary with your supervisor.

Suggestions outside your school system:

1. Get involved with a professional organization.
2. Contact your State Senator or Delegate to meet them and explain what a School Psychologist does and offer to help them in the future if they need reliable information on an educational or children's mental health issue.
3. Contact your US Senator or US Representative to see if you can meet with them when they are at their home office near your residence.
4. Ask your Legislators whether or not they have a newsletter or mailing list. If they do, ask to get on it. Sometimes individuals on this list will be the ones notified of any Town Meetings near their home.
5. If there is an issue that is important, find out when the Public Comment period is and find out where you can provide your public comment. Get involved.