

SCHOOL PSYCHOLOGY CONNECTIONS

Quarterly Publication of the Alabama Association of School Psychologists

BACK TO

SCHOOL

FALL 2022 PD OPPORTUNITIES

Sept 8 at 11:30 - Connections Cafe with Dr Jerome Sattler (free & code provided for discount on new Sattler book)

Oct 6 at 11:30- Connections Cafe - Dr Jack Naglieri (free)

Oct 15- Vote on Region Reps & Secretary; Nominations for 2022 AASP awards

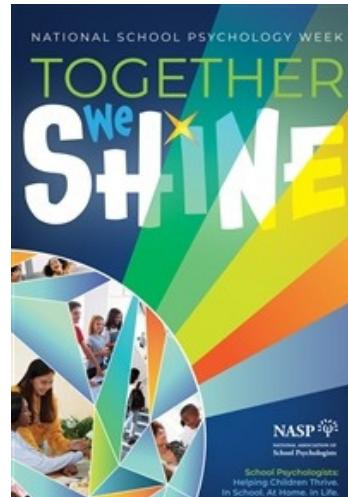
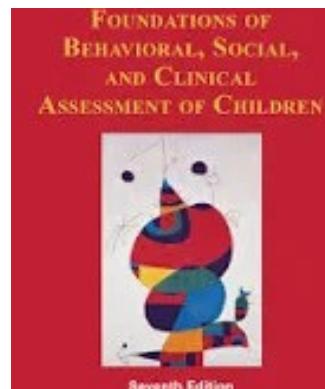
Nov 4 at 9:30-2:30 - AASP Fall Conference- Alabama Power CO Conference Center in Clanton, Alabama/Dr Charles Barrett (free -includes lunch and book)

Nov 5 at 10:00 - AASP virtual Fall Board Meeting

Nov 7-11 - *National School Psychology Week*. The theme is "Together We Shine" and we will be hosting activities and giveaways. Stayed tuned!

IN THIS EDITION:

- Fall Professional Development
- Prong 2
- NASP Delegate Update
- Summary of AASP Member Survey



*Register early for these free opportunities for members at
<https://aaspconnect.wildapricot.org/>

Save THE Date



Feb 26-March 1-Spring Conference at Ross Bridge Resort in Birmingham
Regional Meetings - Look for event details from your Regional Rep

AASP wants to foster a culture of mentoring among its organization as well as those who are in the field but not yet a member of AASP. If you are either early in your career as a school psych (0-2 years experience) and interested in having a mentor, or you are willing to mentor (at least 3 years experience as school psych), click on the link below and answer a few questions.

<https://forms.gle/sxYfLhzEGJtAatuB6>



STRONG PRONG 2 THAT SUPPORTS ELIGIBILITY DECISIONS

BY SARAH WAGONER

ALABAMA STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION, SPECIAL EDUCATION SERVICES
[CLICK HERE FOR ARTICLE](#)

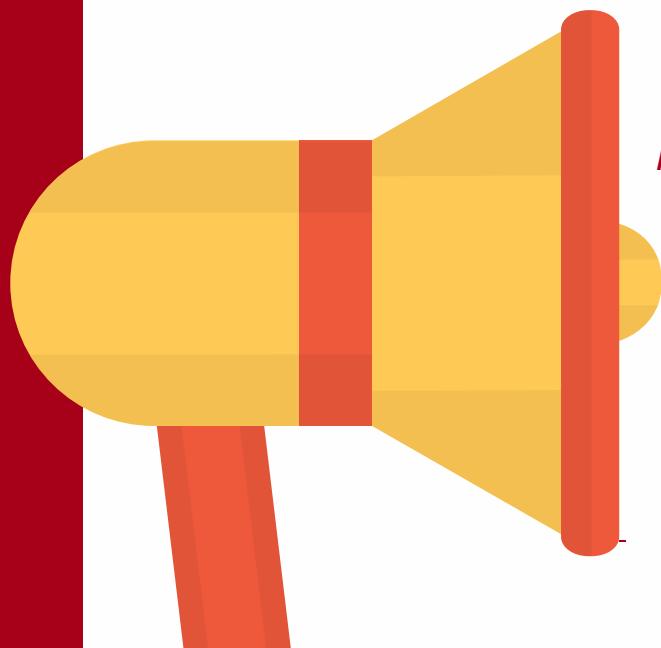
AASP MEMBER SURVEY RESULTS

[CLICK HERE FOR ARTICLE](#)

AASP MEMBER FORUM

LOG IN AS A MEMBER.

GO TO MEMBERSHIP>MEMBERS ONLY>MEMBER EXCHANGE/DISCUSSION



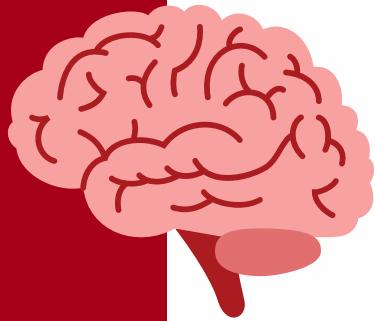
NASP DELEGATE UPDATE-TRICIA K. DANIEL, EDS, NCSP

The National Association of School Psychologists (NASP) is our parent organization. NASP Members receive monthly emails with links and updates and there is a PLETHORA of resources – webinars, podcasts, member forums, journals, articles, etc. available to members.



As we start the year, we want to share a summary of the NASP Practice Model. Why? If you are a psychometrist and thinking about not reading this, STAY WITH ME! In summary, knowing the Practice Model can help improve ratios, raise awareness of the depth of training we receive, and encourage a more comprehensive role (instead of gate-keeping special education). I have been putting information together for AASP, and have looked at a lot of certifications. Though we LOVE that so many are considering going back for the school psychology certification, you can see that the 10 domains cross into special education and counselor certification.

- **Domain 1: Data-Based Decision Making** – It isn't just for eligibility and shouldn't be just about looking at Full Scale IQ or Total Achievement. MTSS, IEP goals, academic progress monitoring, behavioral monitoring, evaluation of school based programs – all should use data-based decision making
- **Domain 2: Consultation and Collaboration** – There seems to be a lot of compartmentalization in Alabama schools but kids aren't compartments. We are trained to consult and collaborate with parents, teachers, and other professionals to meet kids' needs.
- **Domain 3: Academic Interventions and Instructional Supports** – Most of our membership are former teachers and have an understanding of what works and does not work. We can use this knowledge to specifically target needs and not (for example) waste time and effort providing a reading intervention when behavioral interventions (e.g., improve on task percentages) are what is needed
- **Domain 4: Mental and Behavioral Health Services and Interventions** – Mental health does not exist in a vacuum and talk therapy doesn't always work. Mental health impacts cognitive functioning which impacts learning. Mental health should be a wrap around service rather than stand alone service.
- **Domain 5: School-Wide Practices to Promote Learning** – We can create relationships with schedule makers and collaborating on SEL programs. Those school wide programs – house systems, Leader in Me, etc. – are they effective? How are we measuring effectiveness – reducing referrals, increasing grades?



NASP -CON'T

- **Domain 6: Services to Promote Safe and Supportive Schools** – A variety of different issues contribute to safe and supportive schools and shouldn't be politicized – mental health, equity, diversity, inclusion, etc. These are interconnected with other domains including data-based decision making.
- **Domain 7: Family, School, and Community Collaboration** – We mentioned earlier about consulting and collaborating but engaging with the community also addresses what Bronfenbrenner referenced.
- **Domain 8: Equitable Practices for Diverse Student Populations** – Addressing bias, diversity, and inequities to make learning and school experiences consistent for all students
- **Domain 9: Research and Evidence-Based Practice** – Making decisions based on research and facts; not fads, idealism, or community pressures
- **Domain 10: Legal, Ethical, and Professional Practice** – Remembering that we have made an oath to **do no harm**.

I also wanted to share a few challenges:

We all know we are experiencing shortages. What can you do? School Psychology volunteers created the NASP Exposure Project (Dr. Charles Barrett who presented at our April Connections Café was one of the chief people involved). The PowerPoint has already been put together and can be presented to middle and high school students as well as college students to raise awareness of the profession. We need diversity that matches our census. Systems and individuals can be creative if they want to stay in their rural communities to train and return. If you are interested in presenting but do not like speaking in public, reach out to your Region Representative or someone else on the Board (including myself) to assist you! Let us know if you present it (we want to brag)!

Recognition of Excellence in School Psychological Services (ESPS) Program. We have one school system that will be applying this in September (they will be the FIRST in Alabama that I'm aware of!) and just so you know, 73% of their staff are certified psychometrists so don't be dismissive. This award raises awareness of our field – to supervisors, school boards and John Q. Public. School systems LOVE awards that promote their systems and services over other school districts, and parents like to see these accolades when they are choosing the right district for their family. It also provides letters to superintendents, school boards, write ups in newspapers or radios, and financial compensation. The window opens again in April. One school district in Boston was able to use this award to advocate for 20+ positions and received APPROVAL!