How is special education eligibility determined?

The school psychologist works with a multi-disciplinary evaluation team (MET) to serve local districts for children in the Early Childhood programs. The psychologist from the Intermediate School District does the evaluations for children who have not yet entered a school-age program (Kindergarten and up). The psychologist works with other team members which may include: speech and language pathologist, with visual or hearing impairments or autism spectrum disorder. The team does an assessment and eligibility is recommended based on a comprehensive evaluation by appropriate team members and is determined at a subsequent IEP (individualized educational plan) team meeting.

Credentials of a school psychologist:

School psychologists must possess appropriate certification or licensure from the state of Michigan. They are trained in both education and psychology. The current ISD psychologist is a fully licensed psychologist with training in the school setting, counseling and hospital-based services. She has specific training and experience with early childhood development and assessment of children with multiple impairments as well as pediatric consultation of multiple early childhood problems such as toileting and feeding.

Lapeer County Intermediate School District and its constituent districts do not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, religion, sex, age, disability, weight, height, or marital status in their programs and activities. The following persons have been designated to handle inquiries and assist in completing the Board-approved grievance procedure (Guidelines #2260B, 3122B and 4122 B) regarding the nondiscrimination policies:

Michelle Proulx
Director of Special Education
(students)
Ann M. Schwieman
Director of Administrative Services
and Personnel (staff)
1996 W. Oregon Street
Lapeer, MI 48446
(810) 664-5917

Special Education Programs
and Services
Lapeer County Intermediate School District
Education and Technology Center
690 N. Lake Pleasant Road
Attica, MI 48412
Phone: 810-664-1124
www.lcisd.k12.mi.us
School Psychological Services

What is a School Psychologist?

School psychologists work collaboratively with students, parents, teachers and other professionals to help children and youth succeed academically, socially and emotionally. Additionally, school psychologists are adept at educational diagnostics, educational planning, transition planning, behavioral treatment, and progress monitoring. School psychologists have training and experience with students having a variety of disabilities including, but not limited to, cognitive impairment, learning disabilities, autism spectrum disorders, attention deficit disorders, emotional impairments, health impairments, and rare dysfunctions. Following is a summary of the range of school psychology services.

- Consult and collaborate with educators, parents, children, and other professionals or agencies to find effective solutions to learning and behavior problems.
- Administer assessments to determine academic skills, learning aptitude, learning style, adaptive skills, functional performance, and social-emotional development.
- Develop, analyze, and evaluate individual, group or system level interventions designed to improve or resolve the identified problems or concerns. These may include academic, social, emotional, behavioral, and mental health needs as they relate to educational progress.
- Provide support, guidance, technical assistance, and ongoing monitoring of progress toward measurable, identified goals for students at individual, group, or systems level.
- Participate in interdisciplinary staffings and decisions to determine the eligibility, appropriate planning, and re-evaluation for students who require special education programs and services.
- Participate in the development of appropriate, scientifically sound, and least restrictive educational interventions.

Frequently Asked Questions

“My child has been diagnosed with ADHD or falling in the Autism Spectrum Disorders, will my child be eligible for special education services?”

Possibly. A special education evaluation needs to be conducted and your child has to meet the educational criteria established by the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act and the regulations developed by the state of Michigan. School psychologists have training in collection, organization, analysis, and interpretation of school-based data to enhance student achievement and adjustment. Although they do not provide regular counseling, they are trained and may be involved in crisis situations and training others in crisis intervention strategies. Because of their non-school related needs, some students may need regular community-based counseling in addition to school-based interventions.

“Do school-based psychologists counsel students in the same way as community based psychologists?”

Not typically, though school psychologists are trained to counsel students regarding school related issues as determined by the Individual Education Plan Team (IEPT). School psychologists serve children and adolescents in different ways than community based psychologists. School psychologists provide diagnostic assessments to identify students with disabilities, consult on behavioral interventions, serve on consultative teams, review pre-evaluation data, advise on transition to adulthood planning, participate in individual education planning, examine information related to high risk reviews, and write reports summarizing findings. Additionally, school psychologists collaborate with parents, teachers, school administrators, and other professionals to respond to student needs.

School psychologists have training in collection, organization, analysis, and interpretation of school-based data to enhance student achievement and adjustment. Although they do not provide regular counseling, they are trained and may be involved in crisis situations and training others in crisis intervention strategies. Because of their non-school related needs, some students may need regular community-based counseling in addition to school-based interventions.