Psychological Services

Who are Psychological Services Personnel?

Psychological Services personnel have specialized training in psychology as it applies to education settings. Staff consists of Registered Psychologists, Registered Psychological Associates, and Psychoeducational Consultants.

Registered staff are members of The College of Psychologists of Ontario and adhere to the Standards of Professional Conduct and the Regulated Health Professions Act (RHPA) and associated legislation including the Personal Health Information Protection Act (PHIPA).

Areas of expertise include:

- Developmental stages
- Response to Intervention (RTI)
- Learning disabilities
- Social/emotional/behavioural functioning
- Interpersonal relationships
- Individual, family & group dynamics
- Crisis intervention skills
- Threat/risk assessment
- Community development/resources

When can Psychological Services Personnel Help?

Psychology staff may assist students, families, and school personnel when various issues affect the student's school adjustment, including:

- Learning difficulties Academic concerns
- Aggression Behavioural problems
- Peer relation difficulties
- Traumatic events
- Socio-emotional difficulties
- Social skills difficulties

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What are the Services Offered?

- **Consultation** and collaboration with school personnel, parents, guardians, students, community agencies and other support staff to assist students experiencing academic, adaptive, social or personal adjustment difficulties at school.
- **Assessment** of a student includes discussion with parents/guardians and school staff, observation of the child, review of school records/history, and individual standardized testing.
- **Intervention** services include individual therapy to students exhibiting personal, behavioural, and/or social difficulties at school; development and management of behavioural plans for students to assist the student in managing their own behaviour; and social skills and developing healthier coping strategies.
- **Crisis Intervention** provided directly to students, staff and parents/guardians/families when traumatic events occur.
- **Violent Threat/Risk Assessment** to address student threat making behaviour.
- **Professional Development** provided as part of system-wide prevention initiatives and to provide in-service training to teachers, support staff and/or parents/guardians on a variety of topics.

Informed Consent

Staff is required to obtain the parent's/guardian's informed consent to provide services to students. Consent is typically obtained through a discussion with the parent/guardian outlining the nature and purpose of service, benefits and costs of the contact, likely outcomes and recommendations that may follow. This consent is confirmed in writing.

Privacy

Staff is required to inform the parent /guardian as well as the student of the limits of privacy relating to the provision of services.

Information will not be disclosed to third parties without informed consent, with only a few exceptions which include circumstances in which disclosure is justified by law and allowed by professional ethical standards (e.g., risk of serious bodily harm), or required by law (e.g., reporting a child in need of protection; reporting a health professional who has sexually abused a client; a court order to release information from a record).

Please see the Privacy Statement found on the Board's website under Special Education Staff for additional information.

How to Access Services

The process to access Psychology services is initiated by the school principal. For services to be provided parent/guardian consent is required.