



Student Mental Health and Disengagement in Primary and Secondary Schools



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NASP President 2021-2022

The Here and Now

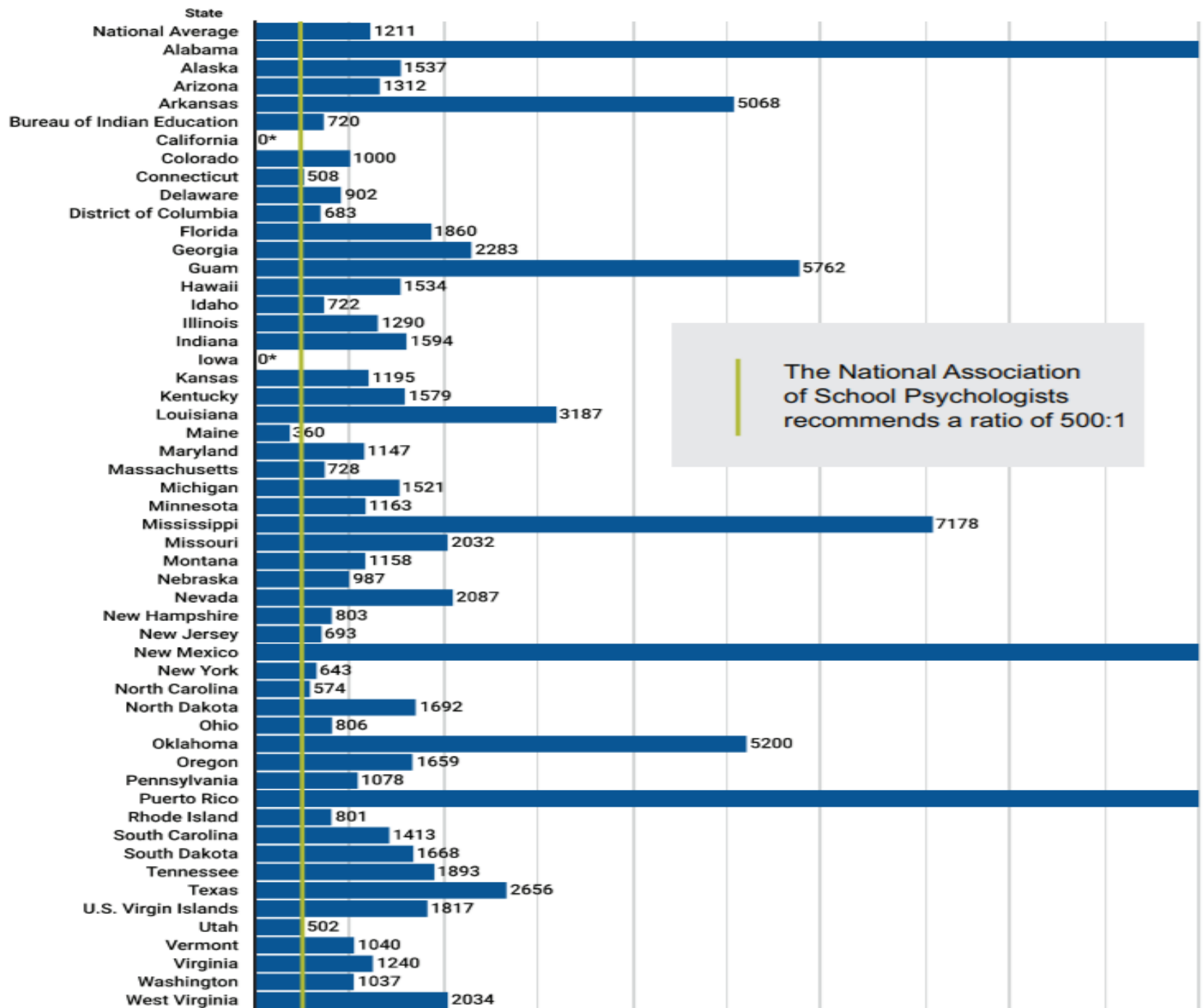
- Significant increase in the number of students who are in need of mental and behavioral health services due to extreme increases in the incidence of emotional dysregulation leading to behavioral concerns during the return to in person schooling
- All mental and behavioral health providers are dealing with the impact of fewer qualified professionals in schools
- School psychologists are reporting that they are being asked to do more with the same, or even fewer, resources in terms of supporting students' and staff mental and behavioral health and instructional needs.

Current Situation

- ALL SLC states who reported indicate open positions for school psychologists
- School personnel reported the highest levels of concerns about *school closure and school reentry*, and parents reported the highest level of concern for *student learning loss*.
- Teachers experienced considerable stress related to poorer mental health, coping, and teaching.

Current Situation

- More than 140,000 children under age 18 in the United States lost a parent, custodial grandparent, or grandparent caregiver
- Approximately 1 out of 500 children in the United States has experienced COVID-19-associated orphanhood or death of a grandparent caregiver
- Children of racial and ethnic minorities accounted for 65% of those who lost a primary caregiver due to the pandemic
 - Texas- between 49% and 67% were of Hispanic ethnicity.
 - Alabama, Louisiana, and Mississippi, between 45% to 57% of children who lost a primary caregiver were Black
 - Oklahoma 23% were American Indian



The National Association of School Psychologists recommends a ratio of 500:1

What Can Be
Done?



NASP Model for Comprehensive and Integrated Service Delivery 2020



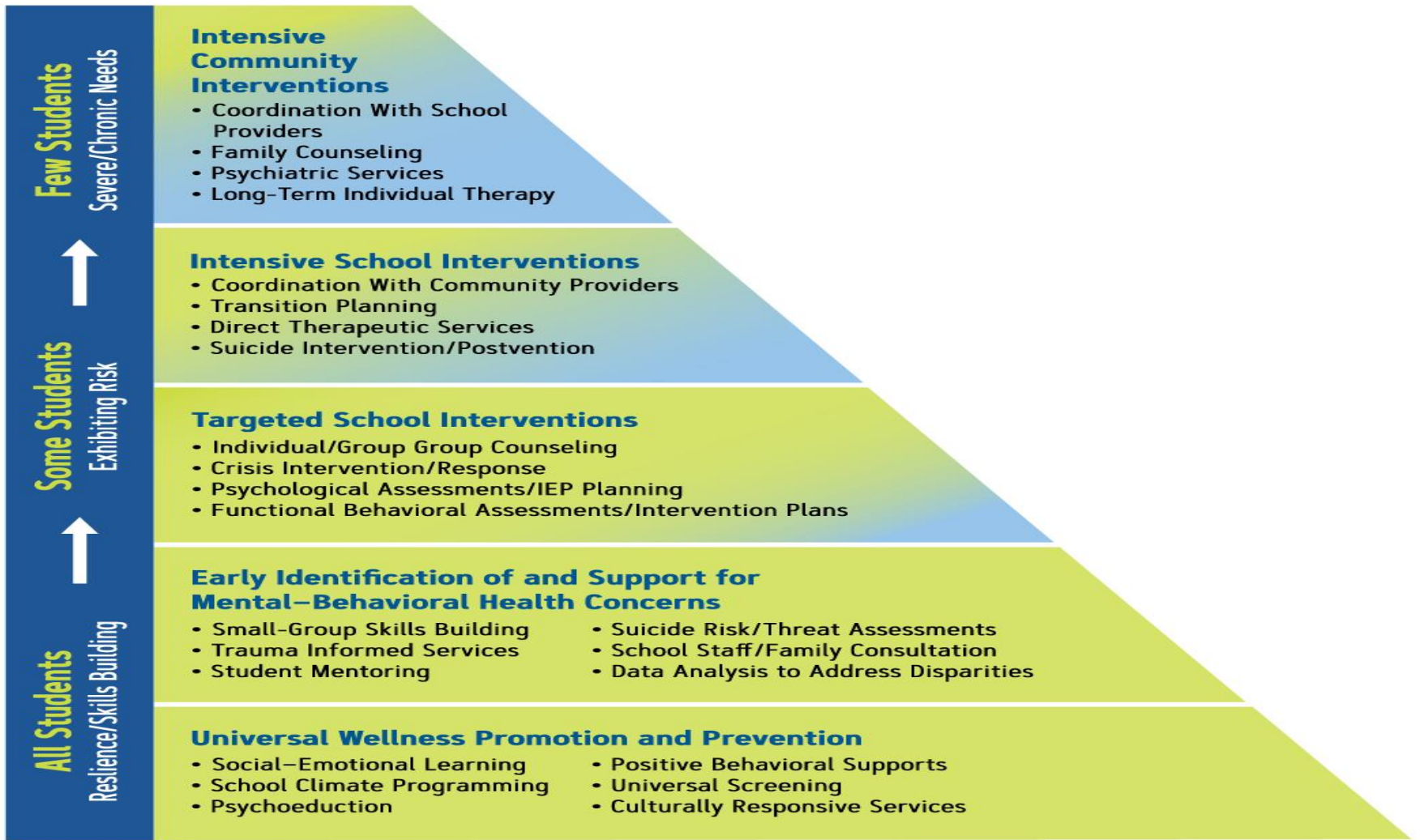
- Incorporates 6 Organizational Principles
- Reinforces conditions necessary to practice comprehensive role
- Delineates 10 Domains of Practice

• **Recommended Ratio**

1:500

www.nasponline.org/standards/practice-model/

School Psychologists Role in Comprehensive School Mental and Behavioral Health Services



SCHOOL PSYCHOLOGISTS PROVIDE CRITICAL SERVICES AT ALL TIERS

State Credentialing based on NASP Model for Comprehensive and Integrated School Psychologist Services

States with Legislation Related to School Psychologist Credentialing	States with Legislation Related to School Psychologist Credentialing that Defines Scope of Practice and Training Requirements Generally Consistent with NASP Standards	States with Legislation Related to School Psychologist Credentialing that is based on the <i>NASP Model for Comprehensive and Integrated School Psychological Services</i>
Mississippi, Missouri, South Carolina, Virginia, Tennessee, West Virginia	Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Texas	North Carolina, Oklahoma

Remedy School Psychologist Shortages

Credentialing reciprocity
for school psychologists

Financial support for
school psychology interns

Legislation to fund
increased access to fully
certified and/or licensed
school psychologists

Targeted state/university
tuition assistance
programs.

Funding to university or
college training programs
to support additional
school psychology faculty
and graduate students.

Positive school climate.

Model legislation
developed by NASP that
is easily adaptable to
specific states

Capitalize on School Psychologists as Mental and Behavioral Health Providers

Ensure that school psychologists are explicitly recognized as qualified providers of mental and behavioral health in statutes and regulations related to school-based mental health services.

Advance legislation that increases access to comprehensive school and community mental health services and that reduces disparities in mental health service delivery, especially among underserved populations.

Provide incentives for school districts to prioritize the implementation of an MTSS framework that includes both academic and mental and behavioral health services

Examine your state Medicaid plan. Is your state taking advantage of the Free Care Rule Reversal? Are school psychologists explicitly included as qualified providers?



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Thank
You!

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