



MASSACHUSETTS SCHOOL PSYCHOLOGISTS ASSOCIATION
575 Washington Street
Braintree, MA 02184

September 10, 2012

The Honorable Deval Patrick
Governor
State House
Boston, MA 02133

SEP 21 2012


Dear Governor Patrick:


The Massachusetts School Psychologists Association (MSPA) is a non-profit organization dedicated to providing mental health services to improve the lives and learning of children. There are approximately fifteen hundred Massachusetts school psychologists, most of whom work in public education. To recognize the vital role this profession plays in the lives of the Commonwealth's students, MSPA is respectfully requesting that you issue a proclamation to declare November 12 – 16, 2012, as School Psychology Week. Every year we request that the second week of November be proclaimed School Psychology Week and every year, the Governor's office has graciously complied with our request.

School Psychologists are dedicated advocates for children within the school community. The School Psychologist's role includes recognizing and assessing students' academic difficulties and making specific and pertinent recommendations to teachers and parents; offering support to teachers and parents around behavioral and emotional complexities; and offering support to school administrators and school personnel around curricula, crisis intervention, and conflict resolution.

On behalf of the School Psychologists working within the Commonwealth and on behalf of the Massachusetts School Psychologists Association, I thank you for your attention to this appeal. A sample of a proclamation has been enclosed for your convenience. The Massachusetts School Psychologists Association appreciates your support.

Sincerely,


Robert V. Babigian, CAGS, NCSP
President, MSPA


Enclosure

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PROCLAMATION FOR SCHOOL PSYCHOLOGY WEEK
November 12-16, 2012

- Whereas, All children and youth learn best when they are health, supported and receive an education that meets their individual needs; and
- Whereas, Schools can more effectively ensure that all students are ready and able to learn when they meet the needs of the whole child; and
- Whereas, Children's mental health is directly linked to their learning and development, and the learning environment provides an optimal context to promote good mental health; and
- Whereas Sound psychological principles are integral to instruction and learning, social and emotional development, prevention and early intervention, and supporting culturally diverse student populations; and
- Whereas, School psychology has over 60 years of well established, widely recognized, and highly effective practice, and
- Whereas, School Psychologists are specially trained to deliver a continuum of mental health services and academic supports that lower barriers to learning, enabling teachers to teach and students to learn; and
- Whereas, School Psychologists are trained to assess student and school-based barriers to learning, utilize data-based decision-making, implement research-driven prevention and intervention strategies, and evaluate outcomes and improve accountability; and
- Whereas, Citizens of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts should recognize the vital role that School Psychologists play in the personal and academic development of our children.
- Therefore, I, Governor Deval Patrick, do hereby proclaim November 12-16 as School Psychology Week in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and commend observance to all our citizens.