

SCHOOL PSYCHOLOGIST – LEVEL 1

EDUCATION

Licensed School Psychologist (Level 1) is defined in W. Va. Code §30-21-2 means a school psychologist who provides school psychology services on school board property and is a school board employee or contractor.

Degree Requirements: Level 1 applicants must have earned a Master's, Ed.S. or Certificate of Advance Study (CAS) in an approved program from a regionally accredited institution of higher education. Core coursework shall be relevant to the practice of school psychology as defined under WV Code §30-21-2.

Accredited Graduate Degree Granting Institutions must be accredited by one of the six nationally recognized regional accrediting agencies which include: North Central Association of Colleges and Schools, Western Association of Schools and Colleges, Southern Association of Colleges and Schools, New England Association of Schools and Colleges, Northwest Association of Schools and Colleges, Middle States Association of Schools and Colleges.

APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS

1. **Application:** If your credentials meet the above cited criteria, contact the Board office for an application. All application materials and fees listed on the appropriate check list must be submitted for Board approval. Email: psychbd@wv.gov
2. **W-2 Employees:** All Supervised-Psychologists must be W-2 employees. Evidence that the Supervised-Psychologist is or will be employed in this way must be submitted with the application.

SUPERVISION

1. **Gold Card:** Once approved, applicants will be issued a "Gold Card" which denotes that they are a Board approved Level 1 supervised psychologist. It also designates the Board approved supervisor(s) for the supervised psychologist. This card has an expiration date. It must be renewed on an annual basis via submission of a renewal form, continuing education certificates, CE Audit Form, and a fee.
2. **Adherence to Supervision Contract:** Supervised-psychologists and their supervisors are expected to complete supervision in accordance with the tenants of the contract.
3. **Supervision Years:** Level 1 supervised-psychologists who possess a master's, C.A.S., or Ed.S. degree, are required to complete 3 school calendar years of supervision. If an internship was required to complete the degree, then one school calendar year of supervision shall be given credit as part of the 3 years required. Thus only 2 years of supervision are required.

4. **Quarterly Reports:** Supervised-psychologists are required to submit quarterly reports to the Board office 4 times per year. These materials are provided once the application is approved. Quarterly reports include face to face supervision hours and psychology work hours completed by the supervisee. Supervisors are also required to keep a supervision log, see the supervision contract for details.
5. **Continuing Education:** 10 hours of continuing education per full year is required for renewal of gold cards, 1.5 hours must be in ethics.

EXAMINATIONS

1. **Praxis Examination:** Passing scores are determined by the National Association of School Psychologists, which state, "Applicants must achieve a passing score (165) on the National School Psychologist Test administered by the Educational Testing Service. Test scores remain valid for nine (9) years after the testing date. Test scores older than nine (9) years are considered expired and would require applicants to retake it. Applicants who took the exam prior to its revision in September 2008 must have achieved a passing score of 660 or higher." Some applicants have passed the Praxis exam prior to applying for licensure. Those who have not shall take the written exam at least once within the first 12 months of the date they were granted Supervised School Psychologist status. Supervised-school-psychologists shall pass the Praxis examination within 2 years of their application for licensure. Those who do not meet this 2-year requirement shall become ineligible for Level 1 licensure and must cease all practice of school psychology. The applicant may, however, retake the exam anytime in the subsequent 1-year period and may renew their "Supervised School Psychologist" status upon passing the exam during that period. Those who fail to pass the exam within the designated periods will no longer be eligible for independent/supervised practice.
2. **Oral Examination:** After completing the required number of supervision hours and at least 2 or 3 years of full time supervision, Supervised-School Psychologists are eligible to sit for an oral examination. Upon successful passage of the oral examination a WV school psychology license will be issued to the candidate.