

**SCHOOL PSYCHOLOGIST – LEVEL 2**  
**SCHOOL PSYCHOLOGIST INDEPENDENT PRACTITIONER**

**EDUCATION**

1. **Licensed School Psychologist Independent Practitioner (Level 2)** is defined in W. Va. Code §30-21-2 means a school psychologist who provides school psychology services to an individual or the public on school board or non-school board property, and provides such services for a fee or other compensation, or as a school board employee or contractee. To be eligible for Level 2 licensure the candidate must have a Level 1 license or a doctoral degree in school psychology.
2. **Degree Requirements:** Level 2 applicants must have earned a Master's, Ed.S., Certificate of Advance Study (CAS), or a doctoral degree in an approved school psychology 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.
3. **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 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](mailto:psychbd@wv.gov)
2. **W-2 Employees:** All supervised-school 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 supervised-psychologist. It also designates the Board approved supervisor(s). 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 Requirements – Master’s Degree:** Level 2 Supervised-School Psychologists shall complete 2 additional school calendar years of supervision which shall include all aspects of the Level 2 professional practice, as described in Title 17, Series 3-17.4. The Level 2 Supervised-School Psychologist shall be informed of the requirements of the provision of independent and private school psychology services. During the 2 additional school calendar years of supervision, the Level 2 Supervised-School Psychologist shall receive supervised experience which achieves competency in the following: record keeping, in-school crisis intervention, duty issues, liability issues, abandonment concerns, confidentiality concerns, court concerns, business issues, supervision of other licensees, and professional practice ethics. The Level 2 Supervised-School Psychologist may acquire these competencies either through actual private practice experience, interaction with his or her Supervisor, or through formal instruction. The Board suggests, but does not require, that the Level 2 Supervised-School Psychologist receive on-the-job experience in a private practice setting during the 2 school calendar year period. If the Supervised-School Psychologist works in a private practice setting, all psychological work must be co-signed by the Supervisor. It is the responsibility of the Level 2 Supervised-School Psychologist and the Supervisor to adequately prepare the applicant for Level 2 School Psychology practice.
4. **Supervision Requirements – Doctoral Degree:** For these applicants 1 school calendar year of supervision is required if an internship was completed. If no internship was completed, then 2 school calendar years of supervision are required.
5. **Quarterly Reports:** Supervised-psychologists are required to submit quarterly reports to the Board office 4 times per year. These materials will be provided once the application is approved and a gold card issued. 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.
6. **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 I licensure and must cease all practice of school psychology. The applicant may, however, retake the exam anytime in the subsequent one-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 1 or 2 years of full time supervision Level 2 Supervised-School Psychologists are eligible to sit for their oral examination. Upon successful passage of the oral examination a WV psychology license will be issued to the candidate.