



Oklahoma School Psychological Association

P.O. Box 802, Edmond, OK, 73083

April 21, 2020

Dear Members and Friends of OSPA,

We want to update you on our Board's current efforts to support school psychologists during the COVID-19 pandemic. OSPA serves as the hub for school psychologists in our state, and it is our goal to ensure all members are well represented and have access to needed resources.

Our Board members are presently active and influential across departments of the Oklahoma State Department of Education (OSDE). Many of the COVID-19 guidance documents being disseminated through OSDE have been created using school psychology literature and input. While not all resources are branded as "for school psychologists" or have our specific names/professions listed, please know that our presence exists in much of the guidance.

Recently, OSDE developed a new office to support schools and students in domains including social-emotional learning, school counseling, community engagement, and a Crisis Team. Currently, the Crisis Team is comprised of two school psychologists who provide consultation and direct support to individuals and districts for threat-based, hazard-based, and COVID-19 related crises. The two Crisis Team School Psychologists are our own - Dr. Erika Olinger (*Past President, NASP Delegate*) and Trisha Goga (*Operations Committee Co-Chair*). For COVID-19 related or non-COVID-19 related crisis questions, concerns, or assistance, information is available at [OSDE Office of Student Support](#) and [OSDE Counseling](#) web pages. You are welcome to contact Erika or Trisha directly. As the Oklahoma NASP Delegate, Erika is also available to communicate any necessary concerns to our national organization.

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We have Board members, Dr. Sara House (*Past President*) and Dr. Brit'ny Stein (*OSPA Communications Committee Co-Chair*), who contract with OSDE to provide expertise regarding MTSS and the roles of school psychologists across all tiers for academics, behavior, and mental health. Dr. Gary Duhon (*OSU Representative*) and Dr. Scott Singleton (*UCO Representative*) provide representation from higher education and have been contracted by the OSDE to collaborate on numerous projects, including COVID-19 response efforts. Jackie Johns (*Eastern Region Representative*), Dr. Sara Rich, and Dr. Erika Olinger are Project ECHO ([TeleSPED](#), [TeleED](#), [TeleEDGE](#)) hub team members and have spoken on various topics spanning the NASP Practice Model. OSDE is using Project ECHO as a major communication platform at this time.

Several Board members, alongside other dedicated Oklahoma school psychology professionals, lend their expertise in various divisions at OSDE. A diverse group of school psychologists comprises the Eligibility Handbook Committee

(within OSDE Special Education Services), and we have members serving on various working committees, such as the IDEA Dyslexia Committee. Our Advocacy Committee (co-chaired by Kathy Quick and Kara McCullah) communicates with Oklahoma legislators about policies relevant to school psychologists and advocates for best practices in education- and mental health-related measures.

Our OSPA Board recently voted to create a COVID-19 Crisis Response Committee to more effectively identify and address your needs during this unprecedented time. This committee is working to increase communication in the coming weeks and months. We currently have resources on our [OSPA website](#), and we are sharing via webinars, videos, and social media posts. Soon we will be seeking your input using a needs assessment survey. When you receive it, please take a few moments to complete the needs assessment to help prioritize and guide our efforts. To receive updates from OSPA and the COVID-19 Crisis Response Committee, you can follow us on social media:

Facebook: Oklahoma School Psychological Association (OSPA)
Twitter: @OKschoolpsych
Instagram: okschoolpsych

We hope the information shared in this letter provides some assurance that the OSPA Board and school psychologists across the state are doing their very best to rise to the challenges that we are facing in this uncertain time. If you need support speaking to others on your administrative team, if you feel the OSPA Board is "missing something" or needs to provide something specific, or if we can support you or our profession in any other way, **please do not hesitate to reach out.**

Thank you so much for all you are doing as a school psychologist during this time of crisis, and in your everyday work. You are appreciated beyond measure!

Sincerely,

Your OSPA Board
ospacommunications@gmail.com