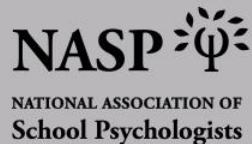




SCHOOL PSYCHOLOGY

A Career That Makes a Difference

Improving the Lives and Learning of Children and Youth



Denise Meyer
March 11, 2021

What are you looking for in a job?



**Lots of
job openings?**

**Diverse roles and
responsibilities?**

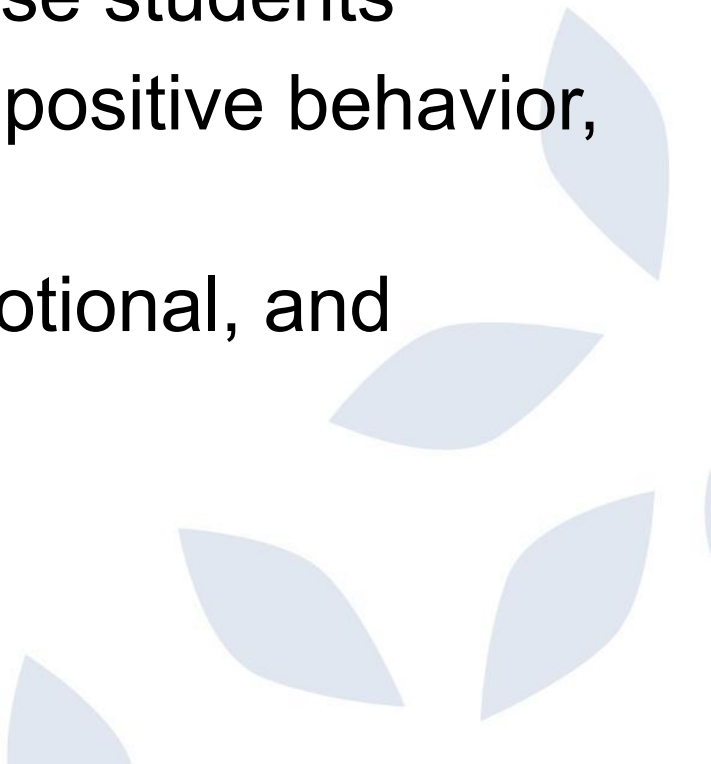
**Good salary
and benefits?**

**Job flexibility
and stability?**

**School Psychology might be the
career for you!**



Who are school psychologists?

- Individuals with graduate degrees
 - Work in schools and related settings
 - Provide comprehensive psychological and educational services to diverse students
 - Promote children's learning, positive behavior, and development
 - Support students' social, emotional, and mental health
- 

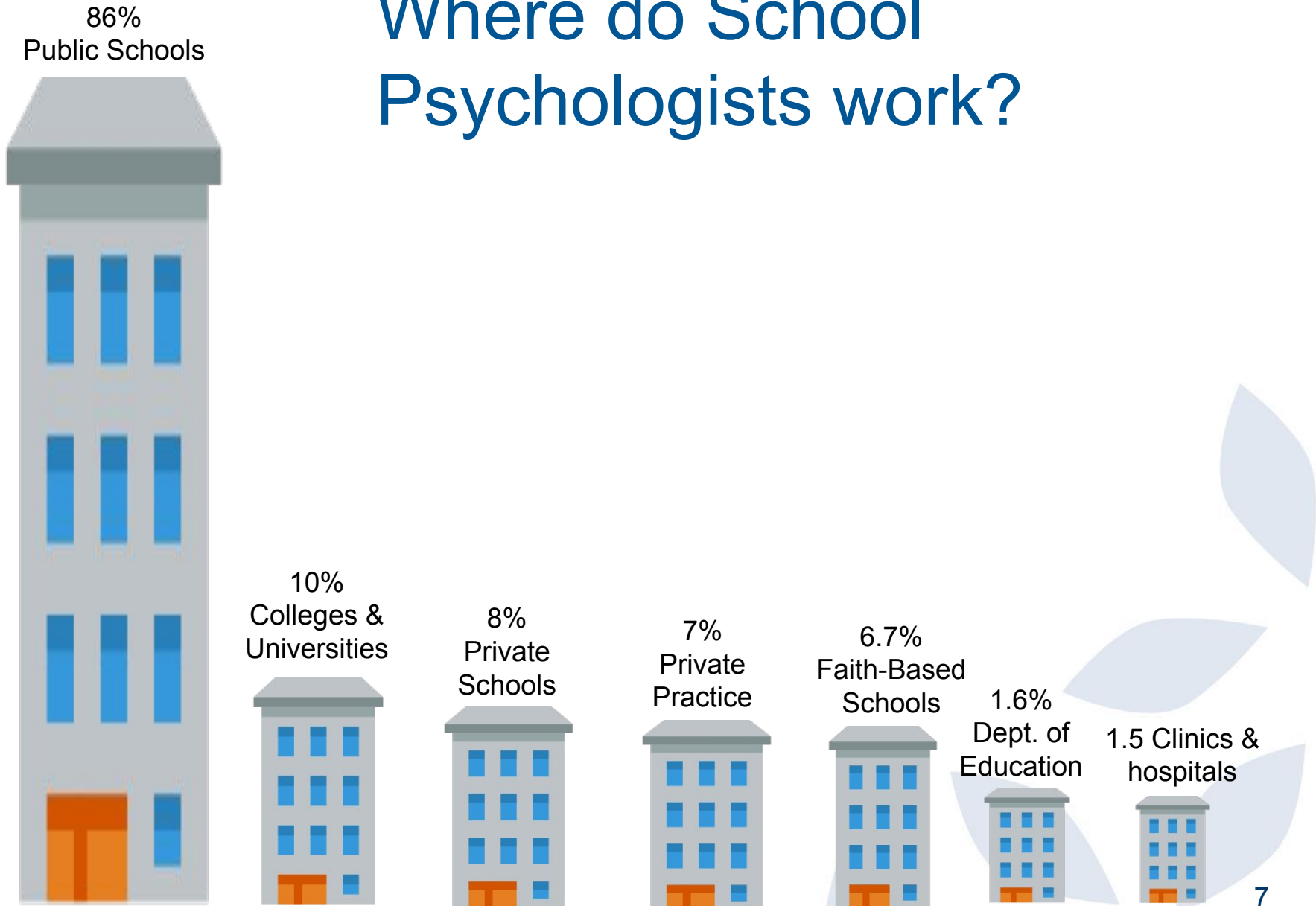
What do School Psychologists do?

- Conduct assessments
- Provide counseling
- Work individually or in groups
- Collaborate with parents, teachers, and administrators
- Help schools, families, and communities provide successful outcomes for children

Most school psychologists work in K-12 public schools.



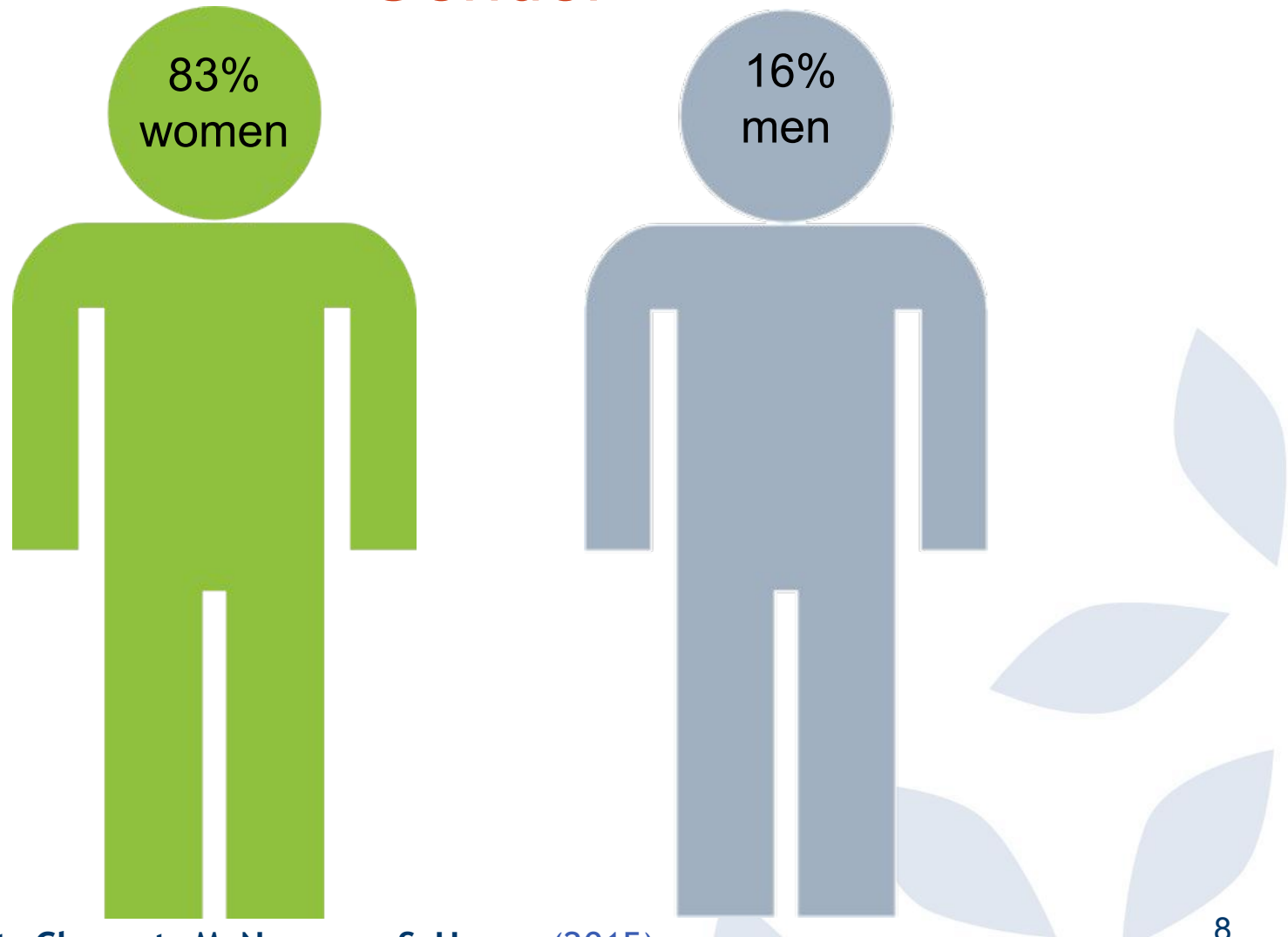
Where do School Psychologists work?



Sources: Walcott, Charvat, McNamara, & Hyson (2015)

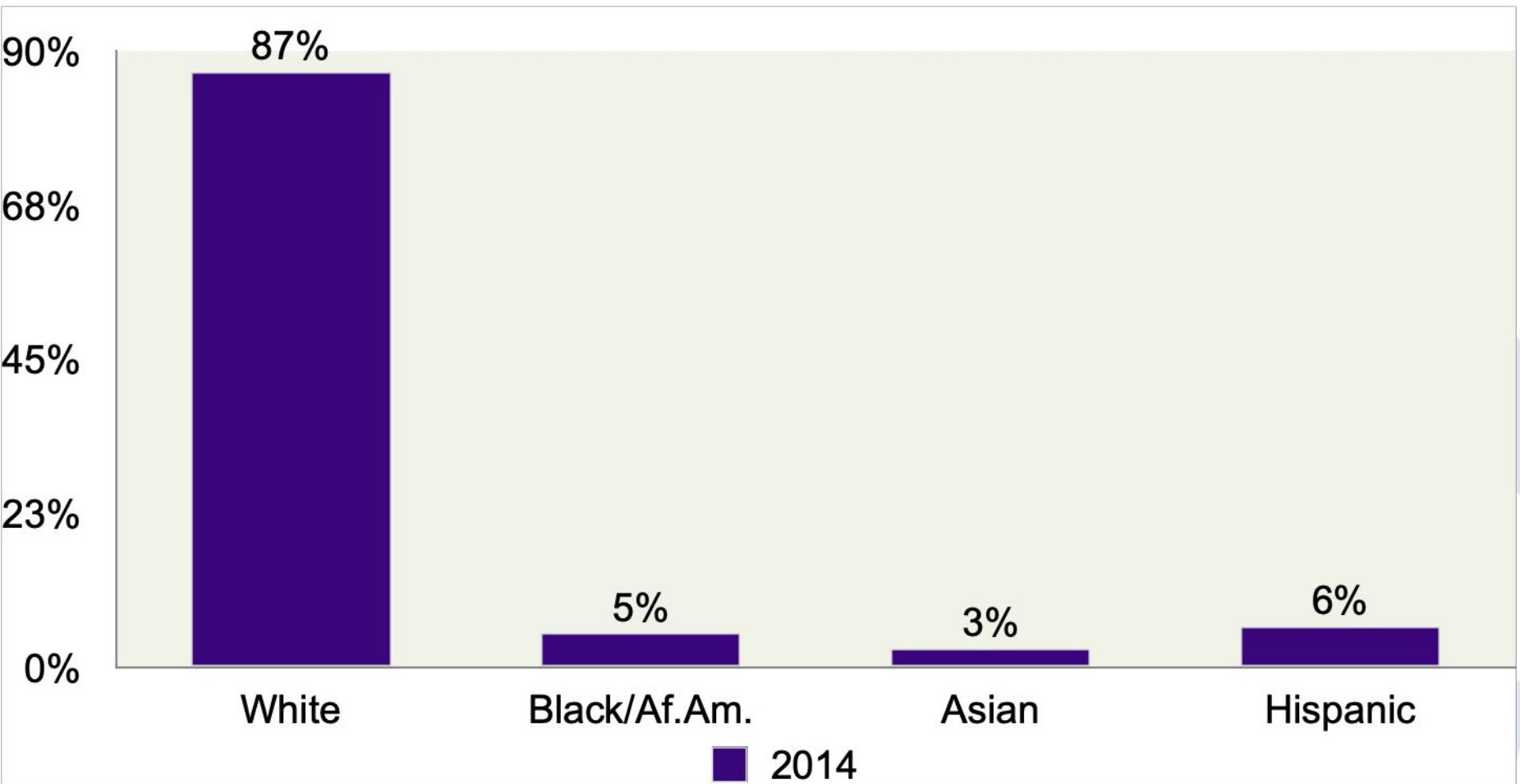
Who are today's School Psychologists?

Gender



Who are today's School Psychologists?

Racial/Ethnic Characteristics

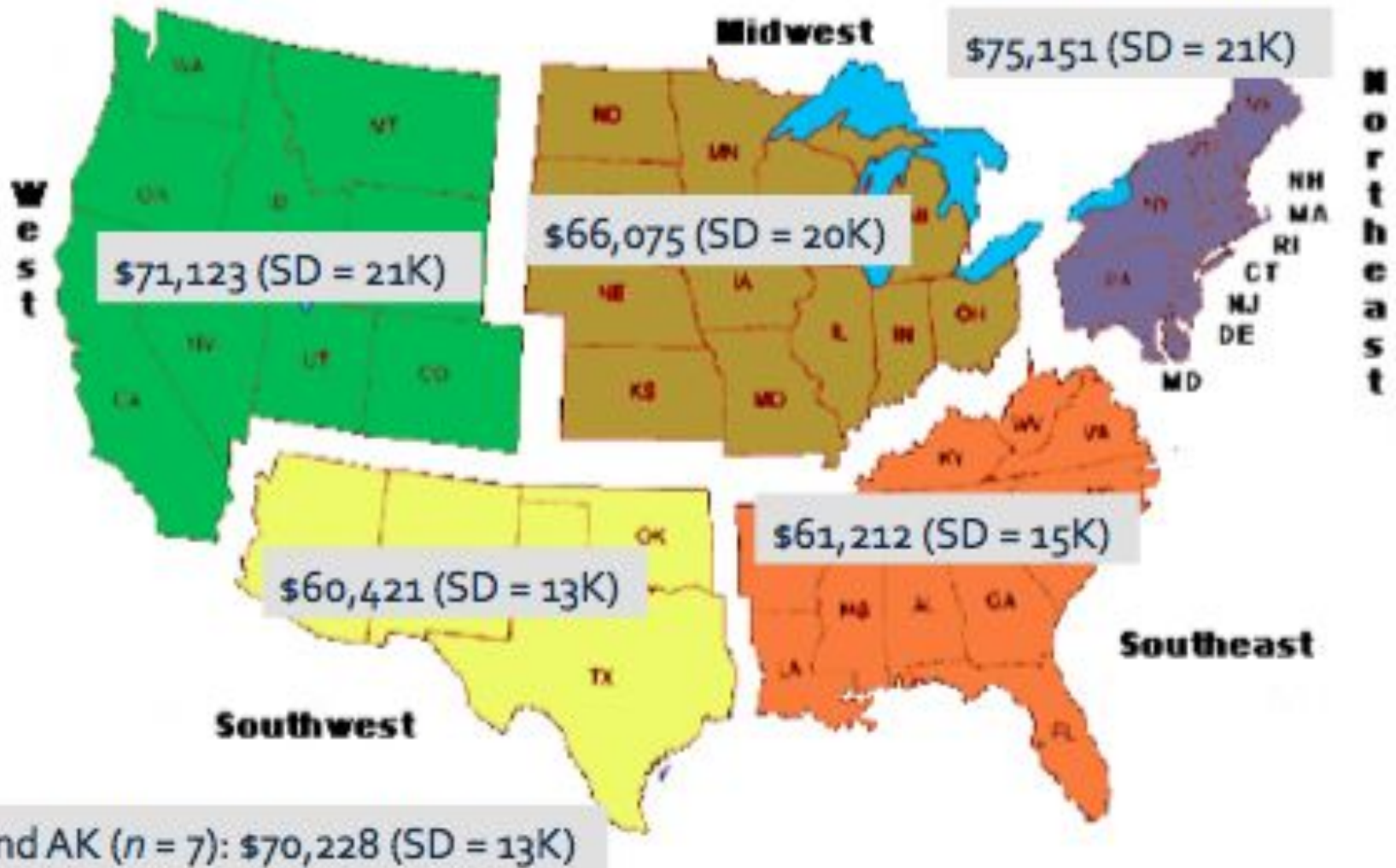


Calling ALL potential school psychologists, but especially...

- Males
- Individuals from non-white background
- Bilingual individuals



Average Salary by Region



How to Become a School Psychologist



Preparation for Graduate School

- A bachelor's degree with a major in:
 - Psychology
 - Child Development
 - Sociology
 - Education or related field
- Volunteer or work experience with children and youth
 - For example; camp, school, YMCA, or mentoring program

Preparation for Graduate School

Specialist-Level (EdS; CAGS, CAS)

- >60 graduate semester hours
- 3+ years full-time (includes one year internship)
- Entry-level degree
- Typically allows for work in schools

Selecting a Degree Program

Doctoral-level (PhD, PsyD)

- >90 graduate semester hours
- 5-6+ years (includes one year internship)
- Allows for work in schools, academia, research
- More options for independent practice

Graduate school coursework

Develops knowledge and skills in
Prevention and Intervention Services for Students and Families:

- Assessment
- Academic/learning interventions
- Mental and behavioral health interventions
- Instructional support
- Special education services, including legal aspects
- Crisis preparedness, response, and recovery
- Family-school-community collaboration
- Cultural competence

Graduate school coursework

Develops knowledge and skills in
Foundations of Services Needed in Schools

- Data collection and analysis
- Resilience and risk factors
- Consultation and collaboration
- Diversity in development and learning
- Research and program evaluation
- Professional ethics
- Education law

Graduate School Field Experiences

Practicum Experiences

- Supervised experiences in schools, clinics, or related settings throughout your graduate program allow you to apply specific skills and techniques learned in courses.

Internship

- Culminating experience
- Provides intensive and supervised preparation for first job
- Full year (1200-1500+ hours)

Getting a Job

- School psychologists must hold a current, valid state credential for practice
- A state-by-state summary of school psychologist certificate and license requirements is found at:
 - <https://www.nasponline.org/standards-and-certification/state-school-psychology-credentialing-requirements>
- Independent practice may require an additional credential

Job Outlook?

- High national demand for school psychologists
- Federal education law includes provisions for school psychologists services
- **Particular need for professionals from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds**
- For several years, “school psychologist” has been listed in [Top 10 among Best Social Services Jobs](#) in *U.S. News & World Report*.
- Stable career with good benefits



A Great Career Choice!

- **Positively** impact the lives of youth
- **Help** parents and educators
- **Flexible** school schedule
- **Range** of responsibilities
- **Variety** of work settings



Questions?



References/Resources

- Castillo, J.M., Curtis, M. J., Chappel, A., & Cunningham, J. (2011, February). *School psychology 2010: Results of the national membership study*. Paper presented at the annual convention of the National Association of School Psychologists, San Francisco, CA.
- Fagan, T. K., & Wise, P. S. (2007). *School psychology: Past, present, and future 3rd Ed.* Bethesda: NASP.
- Harrison, P., & Thomas, A. (2014). *Best practices in school psychology VI.* Bethesda: NASP.
- U.S. Census Bureau (2010). *Place of Birth of the Foreign-Born Population: 2009.* Washington, DC: U.S. Census Bureau.
www.census.gov/prod/2010pubs/acsbr09-15.pdf
- U.S. Census Bureau (2010). *Race and Hispanic Origin of the Foreign-Born Population in the United States: 2007.* Washington, DC: U.S. Census Bureau.
www.census.gov/prod/2010pubs/acs-11.pdf
- U.S. News & World Report. Best Social Service Jobs. Retrieved from <http://money.usnews.com/careers/best-jobs/school-psychologist>



Helping Children Thrive • In School • At Home • In Life