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Dear NYASP Members,

According to most accounts, this season marks the fourth year in a row for school budget cuts. The impact is devastating to the way in which schools operate and worse off may have long lasting effects on the students we are in the business of helping.

While the only real end to this crisis seems to be an economic recovery that will ease taxpayers burden and restore community confidence, NYASP continues to advocate for the cost effectiveness of School Psychologists.

Members have contacted us to share that some communities have discussed removing the school psychologist (or other PPS positions) and hiring a contract service company to provide services. This is not a new proposal! In fact, NYS weighed in on this very issue and NYASP wishes to remind the field that this practice is ILLEGAL.

You can reference the NYSED guidance document on contracting at (<http://www.p12.nysed.gov/resources/contractsforinstruction/qa.html>). See Question 4.

“Contracting with an outside agency to replace the services of a school psychologist would be counter to NYS Education Law § 2510(1) that when a board of education abolishes a position and creates a position with similar duties, the person holding the abolished position must be appointed to the new position, as well as potentially Education Law § 3012(1)(a) that when a new instructional position is created it must be filled by making a probationary appointment. In addition, NYSED has already determined that the board of education does not have authority to retain an independent contractor for psychological services as an alternative to the appointment of a school psychologist pursuant to Education Law § 3012(1)(Matter of Friedman, 19 Ed Dept Rep 522, Decision No. 10,236).”;

In addition this past school year, the NYS Board of Regents adopted SEDL guidelines (<http://www.p12.nysed.gov/sss/sedl/SEDLguidelines.pdf>) providing overwhelming evidence that by attending to the students’ social-emotional brain development and creating conditions where school environments are calmer and safer, teachers can teach more effectively and students learn better. I quote, “Successful schools realize strong academic outcomes by combining high behavioral and academic expectations with equally high levels of student and adult support (Lee, Smith, Perry, Smylie, 1999).”

In short summary, instead of cutting a School Psychologist use them to enhance the learning of all students!

Continue to visit our website for updates. I assure you that NYASP will stay ahead of legislative issues that impact the field.

I would be remiss in not asking you to renew your membership at this crucial time – membership in NYASP is a guarantee that School Psychologists have a voice throughout NYS.

In solidarity during these tough economic times,

Peter Faustino
NYASP President