



RECOMMENDATION TO SUNSET COMMISSION

7. Remove the Prohibition of LSSPs Ability to Practice in Private Clinics

Background

TSBEP Rule 465.38 defines Psychological Services in the Schools. It states, "The specialist in school psychology license permits the licensee to provide school psychological services only in Texas public schools. A person utilizing this license may not provide psychological services in any context or capacity outside of their employment or contract with public schools."

The intent of this rule, when written, was to prevent the LSSP from providing services outside of the school setting, in settings such as hospitals and clinics. LSSPs are trained and have experience in helping all children to achieve educational success, no matter the location of the pupil. This rule prohibits the LSSP from working with students outside of public school settings and limits the allowable services to students accessing services in clinic and hospital settings, denying access to these specialized, psychological services that are provided to students in the public school system.

Moreover, school psychologists are trained, per TSBEP Rule 463.9, in Psychological Foundations and Interventions, which are applicable across treatment settings. Only one aspect of LSSPs training, Educational Foundations, requires training specific to school settings. Additionally, TSBEP Rule 463.9 allows for 600 hours of the 1200 hour internship to be completed outside of the public school setting, provided that the "internship which is not obtained in a public school must be supervised by a licensed psychologist."

Applicable Current State/Federal Law

Texas Occupations Code, Chapter 501

How Issue is Addressed in Other States

Nationally, 81% of school psychologists are employed in public school settings. Other primary places of employment are private schools, community agencies, hospitals and clinics, and universities. The NASP Practice Model does not prevent school psychologists from practicing in clinics or hospitals.

Benefit to the Community

According to the Department of State Health Services (2014), Texas is facing a shortage of mental health service providers. By allowing school psychologists to practice, under supervision, in clinical settings, part of this problem could be ameliorated.

Financial Cost to the State

None