

## The Pupil Personnel Services Student Support Team

*Assuring success for all learners*

This document was prepared by members of the New York State Education Department's Pupil Personnel Services Advisory Team, established in 2001. Their mission is to share information and resources so that all students can achieve to their potential. For more information, visit their respective web sites:

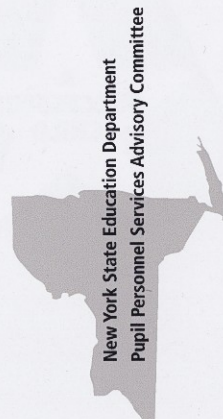
**New York Association  
of School Psychologists**  
[www.nyasp.org](http://www.nyasp.org)

**New York State  
Association of School Nurses**  
[www.nysasn.org](http://www.nysasn.org)

**New York State  
School Counselor Association**  
[www.nyssca.org](http://www.nyssca.org)

**New York State School  
Social Workers Association**  
[www.nyssswa.org](http://www.nyssswa.org)

**New York State Attendance  
Teachers Association**  
[www.nysatta.org](http://www.nysatta.org)



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# The Student Support Team



**PUPIL PERSONNEL  
SERVICES**

**STRONG  
ACADEMIC  
OUTCOMES**

**STRONG  
STUDENT  
SUPPORT**

## Supporting students takes a team of specialized providers:

*School counselors, school social workers, school psychologists, school nurses and school attendance officers. Their shared roles include:*

- **Facilitating Social-Emotional and Physical Well Being:** Behavioral, psychological, health, crisis and environmental problems can prevent students from being ready and able to learn.
- **Strengthening Family, School and Community Partnerships:** Effective services are coordinated across a continuum of care that integrates schools, families, and community providers.
- **Increasing Access to Instruction:** Students with disabilities or other specialized needs require thoughtful and effective assessment, accommodations and programs.
- **Promoting a Positive School Climate:** Every child has the right to attend school in a safe, considerate, welcoming, and caring environment. A safe supportive climate helps students to learn.
- **Improving Graduation Rates:** Early and sustained intervention is integral to the success of students.
- **Collaborating and consulting** with teachers, administrators, parents, paraprofessionals and others on behalf of students.

## Why does every school need a Student Support Team?

*Academic success takes more than effective teachers and a rigorous curriculum. Students experience barriers to learning:*

- A student repeatedly misses instruction due to frequent visits to the nurse.
- A student often acts out in class and is becoming aggressive.
- A student sits alone at lunch and is the target of bullying.
- A student returns to school following a hospitalization.
- A student enters school due to a change in guardian.
- A student is heard to say, "I wish I were dead."
- A student is drawing violent pictures that may include weapons.
- A student is not meeting academic standards although receiving academic interventions.
- The school community is reacting to the death of a teacher.

## Pupil personnel service providers are highly trained specialists:

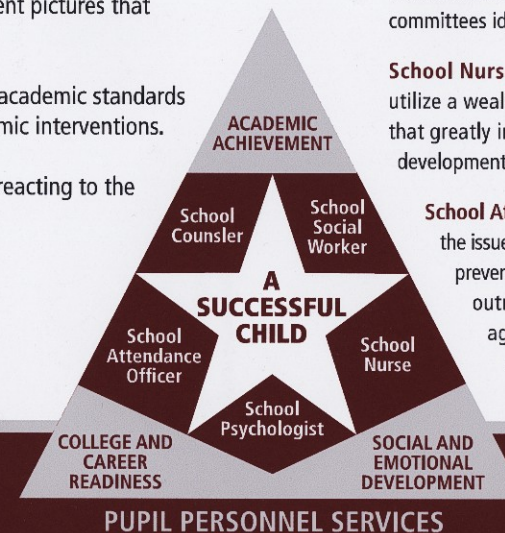
**School Counselors** provide preventative and responsive services for all students in the academic, college/career and social/developmental domains through individual, group and whole-class interventions, including annual review of each secondary student's educational progress and career plans.

**School Social Workers** are educators who are expert in assessment, individual and group counseling, and crisis intervention. Their systems approach provides a pivotal link between school, home and community-based assistance. School social workers are both licensed mental health professionals and certified school social workers. Their license allows districts to bill for services.

**School Psychologists** School Psychologists are highly trained in both psychology and education. They use varied models and methods of assessment to identify students' needs and develop data-driven services and programs. Multiple levels of credentialing include licensure. School psychologists are mandated members of committees identifying need for special services.

**School Nurses** are Registered Professional Nurses who utilize a wealth of specialized educational and practice skills that greatly influence the total health status and educational development of all school children.

**School Attendance Officers** provide focused attention to the issues related to improving student attendance through prevention and intervention via home visits, community outreach and working with outside human service agencies so families understand the link between regular school attendance and academic success.



*"Research underlying social and emotional development and learning (SEDL) suggests that a child who is anxious, afraid, preoccupied, depressed, or alienated is a child whose courage or ability to learn is impaired." –SEDL Guidelines*

The social and emotional development guidelines (SEDL) adopted by the Board of Regents in July 2011 and our national Race to the Top educational agenda acknowledge the value of strong pupil personnel services and the relationship of those services to academic success. The Student Support Team serves the whole child by utilizing their collaborative efforts and individual areas of expertise.