

Proposal for Bellevue/Southgate School Psychologist

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Why does Bellevue/Southgate need a local psychologist?

School psychologists are uniquely qualified members of school teams that support students' ability to learn and teachers' ability to teach. They apply expertise in mental health, learning, and behavior, to help children and youth succeed academically, socially, behaviorally, and emotionally. School psychologist partner with families, teachers, school administrators, and other professionals to create, safe, healthy and supportive learning environments that strengthen connections between home, school, and the community.

What would a school psychologist do for the Bellevue/Southgate Schools?

School psychologist can provide direct support and interventions to students, consult with teachers, families, and other school-employed mental health professionals. (i.e., school counselors, school social workers) to improve support strategies, work with school administrators to improve school-wide practices and policies, and collaborate with community to providers to coordinate needed services.

Why do our schools need a School Psychologist?

All children and youth can face problems from time to time related to learning; social relationships; making difficult decisions; or managing emotions such as feeling depressed, anxious, worried, or isolated. School psychologists help students, families, educators, and members of the community understand and resolve both long-term, chronic problems and short-term issues that students may face. They are highly skilled and ready resource in the effort to ensure that all children and youth thrive in school, and home, and in life.

Other Benefits

- Hiring a school psychologist, will help our district establish efficient and effective evaluation procedures that will meet federally established timelines and add another layer of protection against an Corrective Action Plans by the state
- A school psychologist will be a crucial part in determining any over-identification or ratio appropriateness and ensuring we are in a line with national averages
- Mental Health groups for students

The goal for our school psychologist would be to help:

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| Improve Academic Achievement <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conduct psychological and academic assessments • Advise on the construction of individualized instruction and interventions • Consult with teachers to manage student and classroom behavior • Monitor student progress • Collect and interpret student and classroom data • Reduce inappropriate referrals to special education • Help improve school level Child-Find obligations | Create Safe, Positive School Climates <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prevent bullying and other forms of violence • Support social-emotional learning • Implement and promote positive discipline • Implement school-wide positive behavioral supports (PBIS) • Identify at risk students and school vulnerabilities • Provide crisis prevention and intervention services |
| Promote Positive Behavior and Mental Health <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improve students communication and social skills • Assess student emotional and behavioral needs • Provide individual and group counseling • Promote problem solving , anger management and conflict resolution • Reinforce positive coping skills and resilience • Promote positive peer relationships and social problem solving • Make referrals to and help coordinate community service provided in schools | Strengthen Family-School Partnerships <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Help families understand their child’s learning and mental health needs • Assist in navigating special education processes • Connect families with community service providers when necessary • Help effectively engage families with teachers and other school staff • Enhance staff understanding and responsiveness to diverse cultures and backgrounds • Help students transition between school and community learning environments, such as residential treatment or juvenile justice programs |
| Support Diverse Learners <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assess diverse learning needs • Provide culturally responsive services to students and families from diverse backgrounds • Plan appropriate Individualized Education Programs for students with disabilities • Modify and adapt curricula and instruction • Adjust classroom facilities and routines to improve student engagement and learning • Monitor and effectively communicate with parents about the student progress | Improve School-Wide Assessment and Accountability <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Generate and interpret useful student and school outcome data • Collect and analyze data on risk and protective factors related to student outcomes • Plan services at the district, building, classroom, and individual levels • Monitor individual student progress in academics and behavior |

Cost Breakdown

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| Salary: 185 Days | \$41,373 |
| Fringe | Fringe |
| Total Cost: \$25,928.49 | Total Cost: \$17,285.66 |
| Bellevue: 3 Days per week | Southgate: 2 Days per week |

