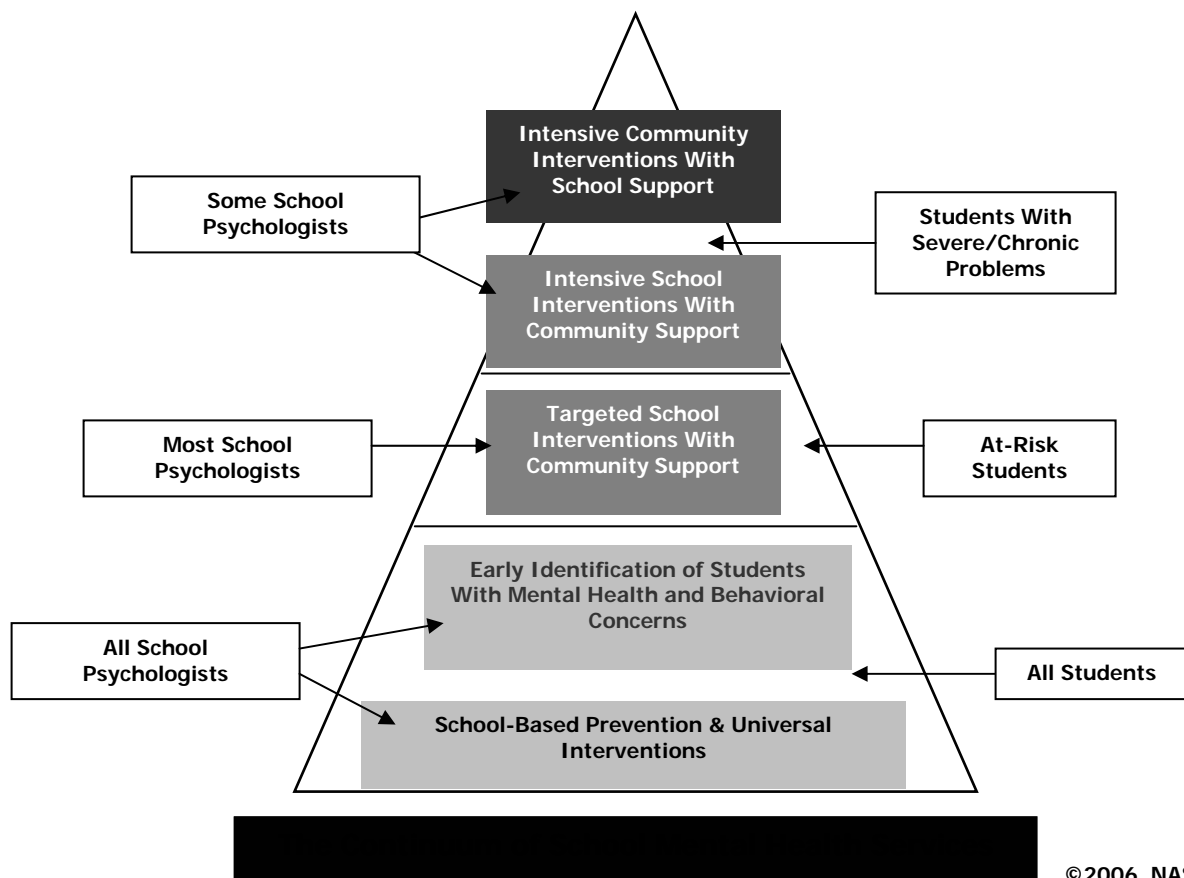


School-Based Mental Health Services Are a Critical Part of the Mental Health Continuum of Care for Children and Youth

Mental health matters to students, parents and schools because:

- Good mental health is essential to success in school and life.
- Mental health exists on a continuum encompassing mental wellness (resiliency/social skills), mental health problems (mild signs and symptoms interfering with performance), and mental illness (diagnosable disorders).
- Too few children with mental health concerns currently receive the help they need.
- Left unaddressed, mental health problems are linked to academic and behavior difficulties, dropping out, delinquency, and risk behaviors.
- Schools are a natural place to meet children's mental health needs.
- Children who receive mental health support are happier and do better in school.
- School-based mental health services are a wise investment because prevention and intervention are less costly than negative outcomes of unmet mental health problems or remediation.
- ***School psychologists and other school-employed mental health professionals (i.e., school counselors and social workers) can provide a continuum of mental health services in school.***



For more information on school-based mental health services and the role of school psychologists in providing these services, visit www.nasponline.org.