

Dear FASP Members,

We have great news to share! The APA Council of Representatives (CoR) voted to retain the right of doctoral and non-doctoral level school psychologists, credentialed by state education agencies, to use the title “school psychologist”!

After about three hours of discussion on the floor of the CoR meeting held on February 20, 2010, the CoR rejected the proposed revision to the Model Licensure Act (MLA) recommended by the APA MLA Task Force, that allowed the use of the titles “psychological” and “psychology” but not “school psychologist” by non-doctoral level school psychologists. Instead, the CoR endorsed a proposed amendment presented by Division 16 of APA. Specifically, the language indicates:

"Nothing in this act shall be construed to prevent (cite relevant state education authority or statutory provisions) from credentialing individuals to provide school psychological services in those settings that are under the purview of the state education agency. Such individuals shall be restricted in their practice and the use of the title so conferred, which must include the word "school," to employment within those settings. This provision is not intended to restrict the activities of licensed psychologists."

We are very proud of the collaboration between Division 16, NASP, FASP and other state organizations and individuals. Through the effort of leaders and members like you, we sent thousands of letters to APA in the last couple of years, and recently made personal contacts to APA Council members to ensure they understand our position. Our profession was able to stand united and convey the message of how important our work is to the children and families we serve. We showed that our identity as school psychologists is strong.

The Council vote marks the beginning of a new era in school psychology. We now have a shared commitment to providing quality mental health services to the children and families we serve. Let’s continue doing great work. Let’s stay abreast of new discoveries in psychology so we can proudly uphold our commitment and serve our profession with dignity and excellence. As professionals in mental health and education, we will continue to make a difference.

We would like to thank you, our FASP members and leaders, for your support and dedication to the profession of school psychology. Collectively, we demonstrated strength as an organization and our efforts made a real difference. FASP will continue advocating for school psychology and we count on you to join us in the effort. We will continue to stand united!

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