

School Psychologist Awareness

Prince George's County Public Schools

Did you know that school psychologists are trained for more than just testing?

School psychologists also receive training in...

- Child and adolescent development
- Learning and behavior
- Mental health and counseling
- Prevention and intervention
- Diversity in development and learning
- Consultation and collaboration
- Data collection and analysis
- Research and program evaluation

School psychologists are capable of providing direct and indirect academic, behavioral, and mental health supports that address the needs of ALL students, including struggling and diverse learners. School psychologists are also capable of using their training to help schools and school systems develop, implement, and evaluate programs that...

- Promote student achievement and well-being
- Foster safe and supportive learning environments
- Strengthen school-family-community partnerships
- Enhance school-wide data-based decision making

In order to provide comprehensive services, the National Association of School Psychologists recommends a ratio of 1:500-700, or 1 school psychologist per 500-700 students. Prince George's County Public Schools has an average ratio of 1:1,423, which is more than double the recommendation.

The average ratio is 1 : 1,423, or 1 school psychologist per 1,423 students!

If you would like students in Prince George's County Public Schools to have access to school psychologists who are staffed to provide comprehensive supports and services, I encourage you to contact the following individuals, express concern over current school psychologist ratios, and ask for an increase in the number of school psychologist positions included in the next budget.

- **Prince George's County Public Schools**
 - Chief Executive Officer (ceo@pgcps.org)
 - Board of Education (<https://www.pgcps.org/board/#boe-members>)
- **Prince George's County Government**
 - County Executive (countyexecutive@co.pg.md.us)
 - Council Members (<https://pgccouncil.us/27/The-Council>)

National Association of School Psychologists (2014). *Who are school psychologists?*. Retrieved from <http://www.nasponline.org/about-school-psychology/who-are-school-psychologists>.

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What's Our Ratio?

Below is a summary of average school psychologist ratios across all 24 districts in Maryland. The National Association of School Psychologists recommends a ratio of 1:500-700, or 1 school psychologist per 500-700 students. High ratios reduce access to school psychologists and limit the types of supports and services that school psychologists can provide.

Did you know that **Prince George's County Public Schools** has an average ratio of 1:1,423, which is more than double the recommendation and **ranks 18th out of 24 districts?** Furthermore, among the six districts with more than 50,000 students, Prince George's County Public Schools ranks last.

Maryland School District	Students per School Psychologist
Baltimore City	537
Charles	684
Wicomico	748
Dorchester	795
Howard	830
Cecil	904
Somerset	973
Kent	997
Calvert	1061
Baltimore County	1148
Harford	1181
Anne Arundel	1214
Allegany	1233
Garrett	1270
Carroll	1304
Montgomery	1340
St. Mary's	1389
Prince George's	1423
Frederick	1532
Caroline	1653
Worcester	1671
Queen Anne's	1728
Washington	1915
Talbot	2323

Districts with over 50,000 students	Students per School Psychologist
Baltimore City	537
Howard	830
Baltimore County	1148
Anne Arundel	1214
Montgomery	1340
Prince George's	1423

In order to match recommendations from the National Association of School Psychologists, Prince George's County Public Schools would need to add 96 to 172 school psychologist positions to the school budget.

In order to have ratios equivalent to the other urban districts in Maryland, Prince George's County Public Schools would need to add to the school budget:

Montgomery	6 positions
Anne Arundel	16 positions
Baltimore County	22 positions
Howard County	66 positions
Baltimore City	153 positions

The CEO's proposed budget for FY 2020 only added 2 positions!

Ratios were determined using district budgets for FY 2019 and enrollment data submitted to Maryland State Department of Education during SY 2018. Coordinators of psychological services (five districts) supplemented available data. Actual ratios may vary due to several factors, including staff vacancies, allocation of school psychologist staff within a district, changes in student enrollment, etc.