Domain 10: Legal, Ethical, and Professional Practice

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EDPS 513

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October 10, 2022

**Introduction**

Domain 10 from the Professional Standards of the National Association of School Psychologists (NASP) is Legal, Ethical, and Professional Practice. Domain 10 states that school psychologists must have professional work characteristics that are crucial for effective practice such as responsibility, dependability, advocacy skills, effective interpersonal skills, respect for human diversity, technological competence, and a commitment to social justice and equity. Additionally, school psychologists must have knowledge of multiple service models and methods; ethical, legal, and professional standards; the history and foundations of school psychology; and other factors related to professional identity and effective practice as school psychologists.

**Discussion**

A school psychologist needs to be familiar with accessing, evaluating, and using information sources and technology in ways that safeguard and enhance the quality of services, security of confidential information, and responsible record keeping. In addition to this, school psychologists stay on top of the effectiveness of their own services by collecting data to evaluate and document them. School psychologists are lifelong learners and create their own personal plans for ongoing professional growth. It is not a stagnant profession, rather, one that spans a long time and progresses with the more time that passes. Within the same vein, school psychologists take part in continuing professional development activities- a minimum of 75 hours of professional development every 3 years- or at a level consistent with maintenance of the Nationally Certified School Psychologist credential. As part of continuing professional development, school psychologists may participate in local, state, and national professional associations and, when interested, engage in leadership roles. Lastly, school psychologists are knowledgeable about standards that define contemporary professional practice and organizational principles that provide context for their work. This is crucial so they can define the setting of their work in accordance with the ongoing environments around them that play a large role in their work and how to best serve others.

The services that school psychologists provide are consistent with ethical, legal, and professional standards and regulations. Services school psychologists provide include advocating for professional roles as providers of effective services, and evidence-based practices that enhance the learning and mental health of all children and youth. Advocating for others is a virtuous job and one that only furthers the bonds with those school psychologists work with, enhances their professional relationships, and displays true moral and ethical behavior.

School psychologists collaborate with other professionals and engage in effective, collaborative, and ethical professional relationships. Additionally, professional supervision, mentoring, and peer consultation are all part of the work school psychologists do. In collaboration with this, school psychologists provide mentoring, supervision, and peer consultation to other professionals. School psychologists also act as guides when it comes to assisting teachers, parents/guardians, administrators and other school personnel in adhering to and understanding regulations and laws relevant to general and special education services. In accordance with the ethical principles of school psychologists, these professionals stand up for the welfare and rights of children, using expertise to promote changes in individual education programs, systems, schools, and legislation. School psychologists actively contribute to conversations about matters of public concern, using factual and verifiable statements that enhance the use of evidence-based practices and policies.

**Reflection**

Domain 10 is important for my future as a school psychologist. Everyday work characteristics such as responsibility, dependability, advocacy skills, effective interpersonal skills, respect for human diversity, technological competence, and a commitment to social justice and equity are all skills that will be crucial when working with people of all ages, from children to adults. As a school psychologist, I will be working with that range of people. Being able to talk with someone and communicate clearly will allow for a work to transpire with little to no confusion. Being responsible, dependable, and respectful all contribute to being a strong individual with good habits and morals, which will emanate into a professional role. Having the knowledge of different service models and methods, various standards types, and the history and background of school psychology are all fields of knowledge that will properly equip me with what I need to succeed and move forward in my career.