



Trainers of School Psychologists

STATEMENT ON 2016 ELECTION AND CAMPAIGN PROCESS

Following the 2016 national election and campaign process, many families and their children are experiencing heightened feelings of insecurity and uncertainty as they try to anticipate the potential ways in which their futures will be impacted. As a result, the leadership of school psychologists will be called upon to support *all* children, families, teachers, and other school personnel.

The professional code of ethics of the National Association of School Psychologists (NASP) and the American Psychological Association (APA), make clear the importance of supporting the academic success and mental health of all children. Furthermore, our local, state, and federal laws, including the *Every Student Succeeds Act* (ESSA), specify that regardless of color, creed, country of origin, sexual orientation, gender identity, disability, or immigration status, all people have equal protection and liberties. As trainers of school psychologists, we uphold our ethical principles of respecting all people's rights and dignity, and strive for beneficence and non-maleficence. As the professional association that represents graduate educators in school psychology, we are deeply concerned about any and all statements that reflect bigotry, misogyny, and general intolerance. Such statements are detrimental to some of our students, cause fear in others, and promote behaviors that are incompatible with a positive learning community. Consequently, school psychologists must be vigilant about and engage in constructive action to protect the most vulnerable.

As trainers of school psychologists, it is incumbent upon each of us at this time as an opportunity for reflection to address the many complex social and political issues that impact our teaching, practice, and research. We strongly encourage all trainers/graduate educators to engage in self- and program-examination to determine how well the issues of diversity and social justice are integrated within our respective training programs, curricula, and practicum/internship experiences. We also encourage trainers to reflect upon our own levels of knowledge and expertise in these areas. As trainers, it is our responsibility to nurture the development of future educational leaders and child advocates who promote empathy and compassion; engage in culturally responsive problem-solving; and work collaboratively with teachers, administrators, and communities to support all children. While a deep divisiveness has been exposed within our country, all of us must engage in the work necessary to foster an environment of inclusiveness. In the words of Pablo Casals, "You must work-we must all work-to make the world worthy of its children."

Trainers of School Psychologists is a national organization representing over 126 school psychology programs in the United States. TSP is committed to innovation and excellence in graduate training programs for specialist and doctoral school psychologists.