



NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF SCHOOL PSYCHOLOGISTS
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*Enhancing the mental health and
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M E M O R A N D U M

TO: NASP Members in Texas
Members of the Texas Association of School Psychologists (via the Texas Association)
Nationally Certified School Psychologists in Texas
NASP Delegate Assembly

FROM: Patti L. Harrison, PhD, NCSP, 2009-2010 President
Susan Gorin, CAE, Executive Director

SUBJECT: **Cease and Desist Letter Sent to the Texas State Board of Examiners of Psychologists**

DATE: April 6, 2010

The purpose of this memo is to inform you of recent action taken by the National Association of School Psychologists (NASP) and the Texas Association of School Psychologists (TASP) on behalf of approximately 600 Nationally Certified School Psychologists (NCSP) in Texas.

As you know, in Texas the only credential for school psychologists working in schools is the Licensed Specialist in School Psychology (LSSP) issued by the Texas State Board of Examiners of Psychologists (Texas Board). Over the past few years, the Texas Board has sanctioned doctoral and specialist level LSSPs who hold the NCSP because these individuals used the NCSP credential as part of their professional identifying information (e.g., signature block, letterhead, etc.). The Board asserts that use of the credential is prohibited because only "licensed psychologists" can use the term "psychologist" or use a specialty title or designation.

We have been advised that this prohibition is a clear violation of the First Amendment rights of NASP and TASP members who hold the NCSP. They have truthfully expressed their credentials, and the public is not misled by the use of the credential. Moreover, it is contradictory to the Board's own policies to make such a prohibition since the Texas Board recognizes the NCSP as one criterion for licensure as an LSSP.

Through our attorneys, [Hull Henricks & McRae, LLP](#), we filed a Cease and Desist letter with the Texas Board on March 5, 2010. We have received word that the issue will be on the agenda for the board's public meeting on May 6, 2010.

We will keep you informed of decisions and next steps as they occur.