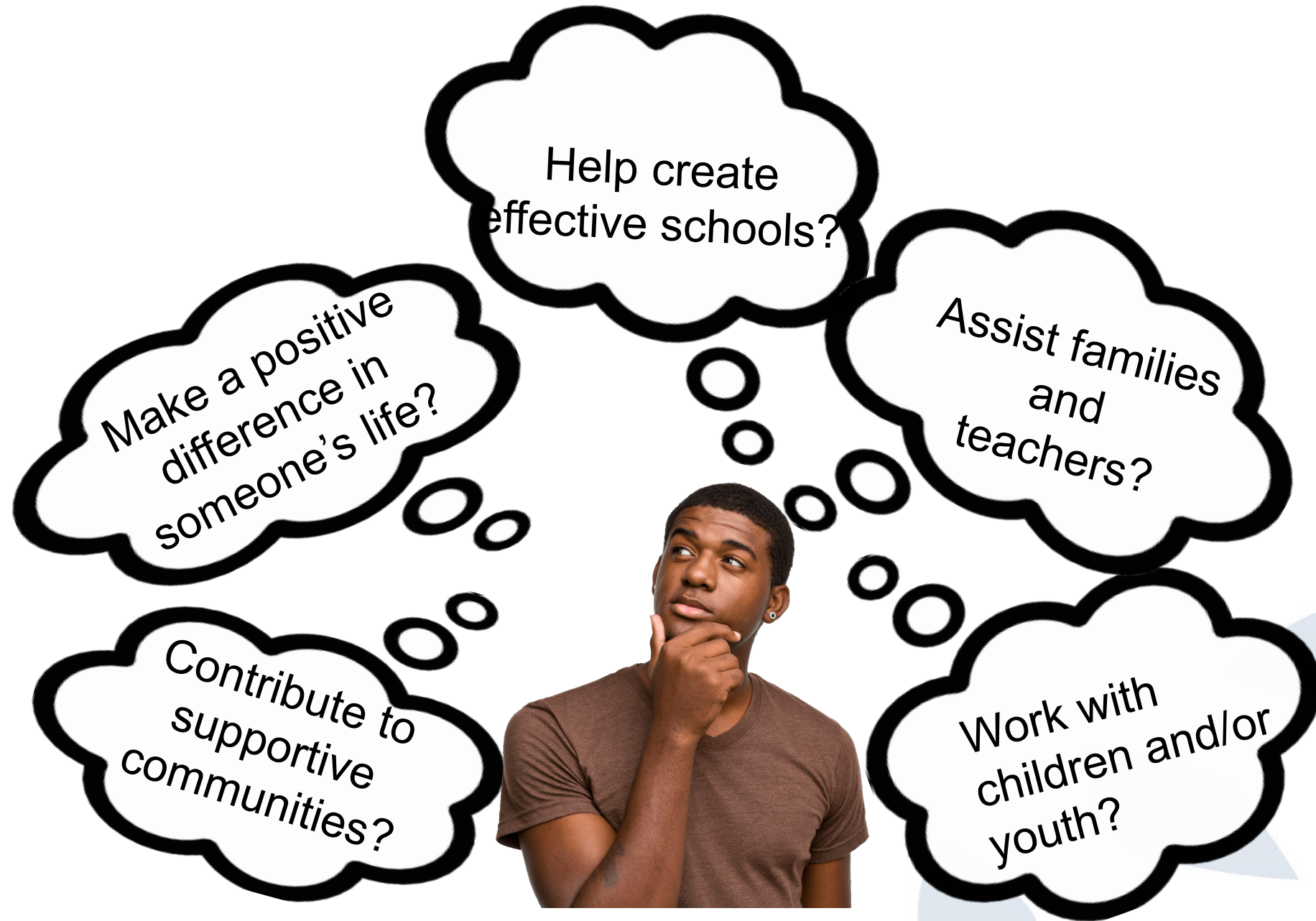


# WHAT IS SCHOOL PSYCHOLOGY?

**A Career That Makes a Difference  
Improving the Lives and Learning of  
Children and Youth**



# WHAT DO YOU WANT FOR YOUR CAREER?





# WHAT ARE YOU LOOKING FOR IN A JOB?



**Lots of  
job openings?**

**Diverse roles and  
responsibilities?**

**Good salary  
and benefits?**

**Job flexibility  
and stability?**





**School Psychology might be the  
career for you.**

# MY STORY


- I became a School Psychologist because...
- The thing I love most about being a School Psychologist is...
- The most challenging aspect of being a School Psychologist is...



# Who are School Psychologists?

- **Highly-qualified professionals with a graduate degree**
- **Work in schools and related settings**
- **Provide comprehensive psychological and educational services to diverse students**
- **Promote children's learning, positive behavior, and development**
- **Support students' social, emotional, and mental health**



A close-up photograph of a woman's face and upper torso. She is holding a black pen vertically against her chin, with her index finger resting on the pen. She has a thoughtful expression. She is wearing a light green, button-down cardigan. The background is a soft, out-of-focus light blue and white.

What do School  
Psychologists do?



# What do School Psychologists do?

- Conduct assessments, counselling, and other mental health and academic interventions
- Work with children and youth individually and in groups
- Collaborate with parents, teachers, administrators, and other professionals
- Help schools, families, and communities provide successful outcomes for children
- Engage in research and program evaluation activities
- Advocacy
- Education





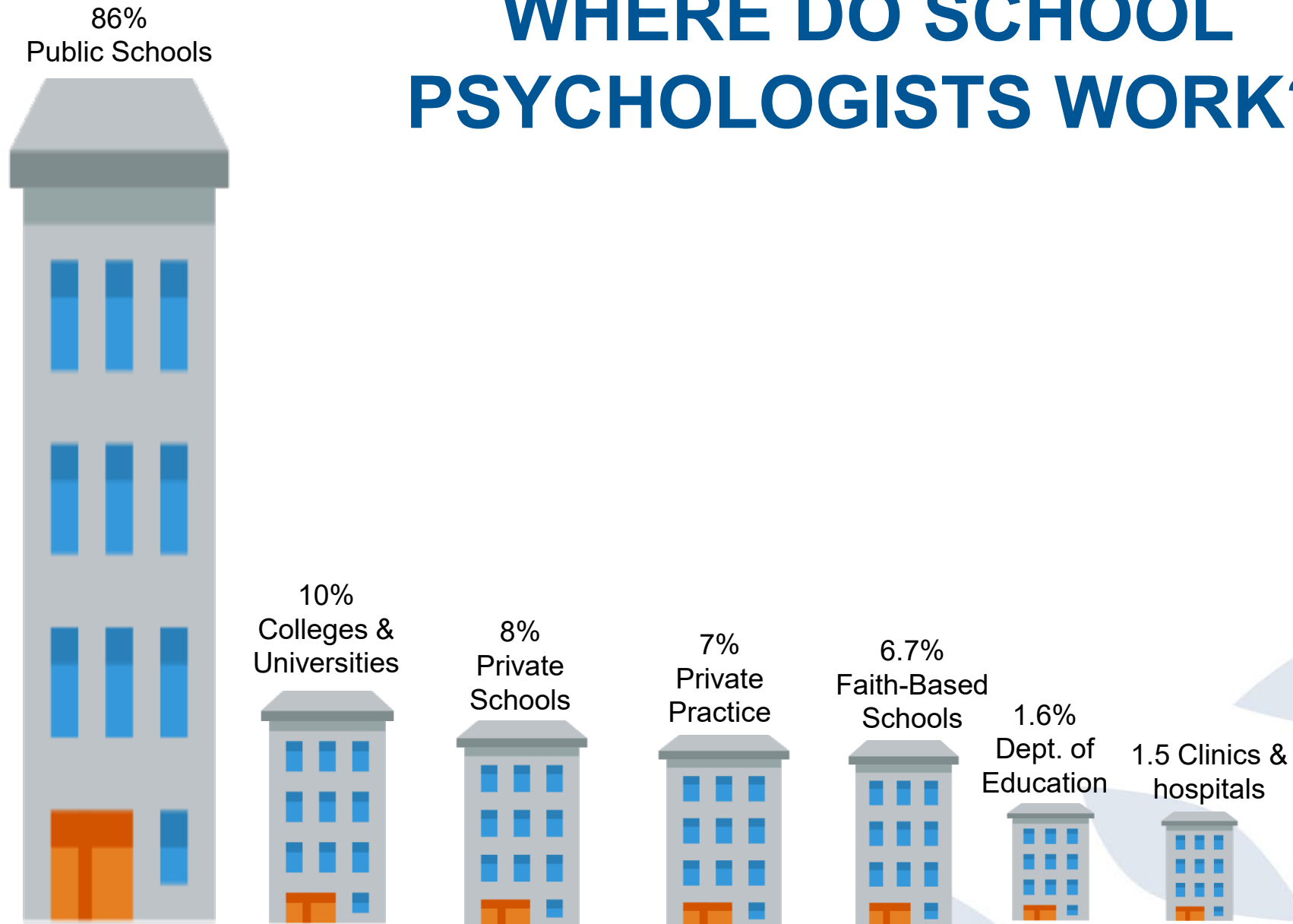
# What do School Psychologists do?

- Help ALL students, parents, and teachers
- Learning difficulties
- Behavior and attention concerns
- Problems with peers (isolation, bullying)
- Depression and other mental health issues
- Coping with crisis & trauma (natural disasters, war, school violence, abuse, rape)
- Poverty, violence, homelessness, foster youth, loss, grief
- Family issues (divorce, death, substance abuse, military deployment)
- Promote student well-being (social, emotional, mental and behavioural health)

# Most School Psychologists work in K-12 public schools



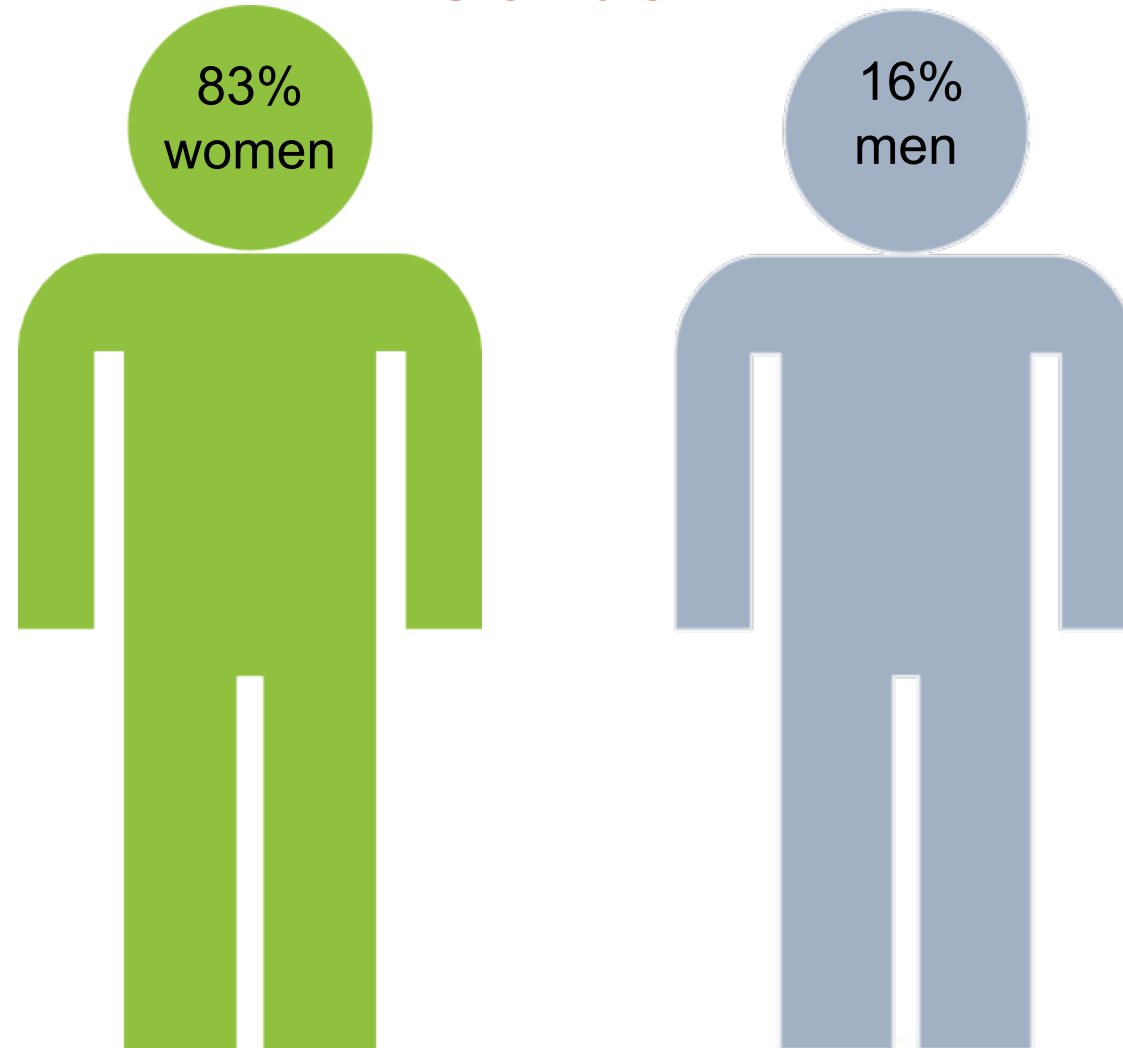
# WHERE DO SCHOOL PSYCHOLOGISTS WORK?



Walcott, Charvat, McNamara, & Hyson (2015)

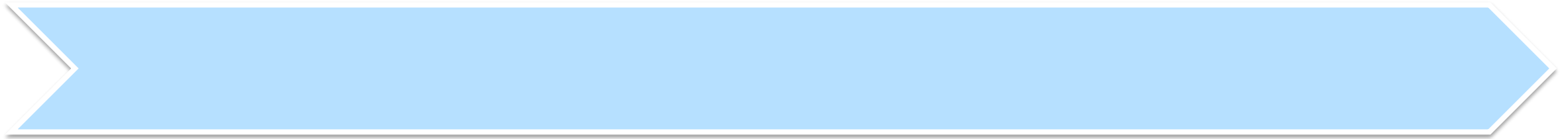
# WHO ARE TODAY'S SCHOOL PSYCHOLOGISTS?

## Gender





# How to become a School Psychologist



01

GRADUATE  
FROM HIGH  
SCHOOL

02

ATTEND  
UNIVERSITY

03

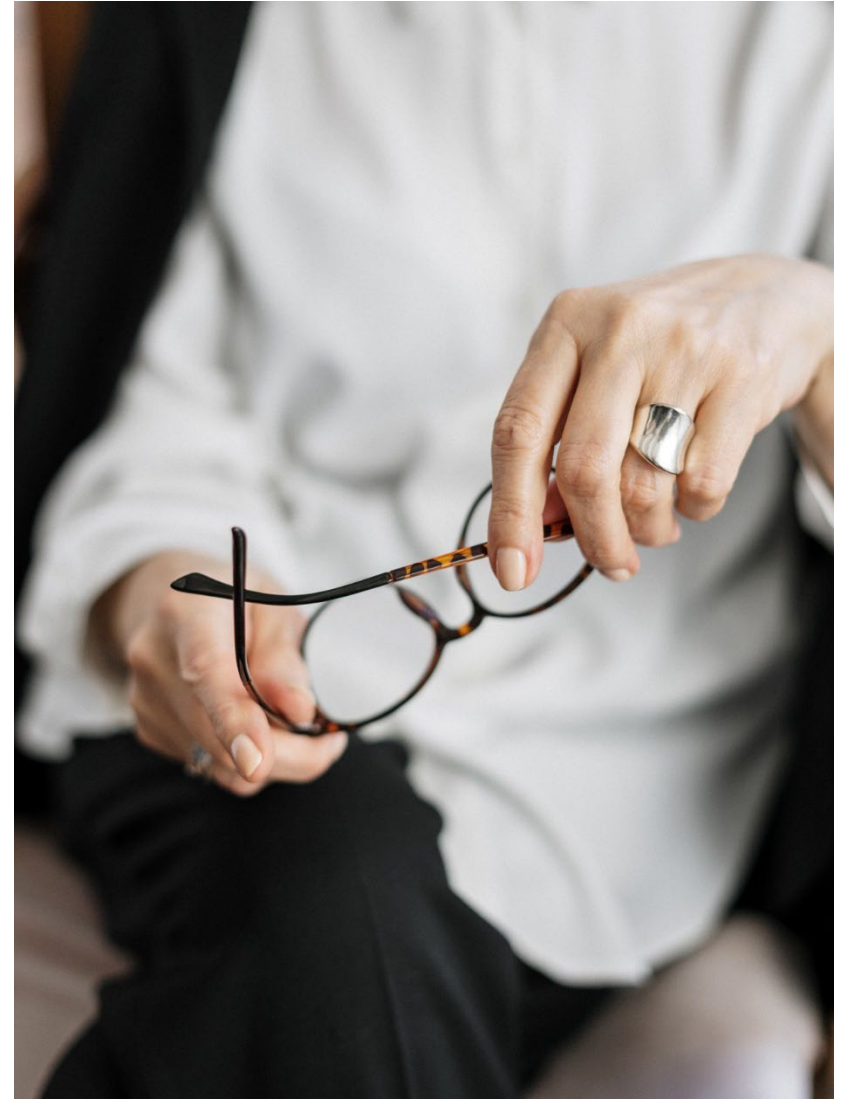
PREPARATION FOR  
GRADUATE SCHOOL

04

GRADUATE  
SCHOOL  
COURSEWORK

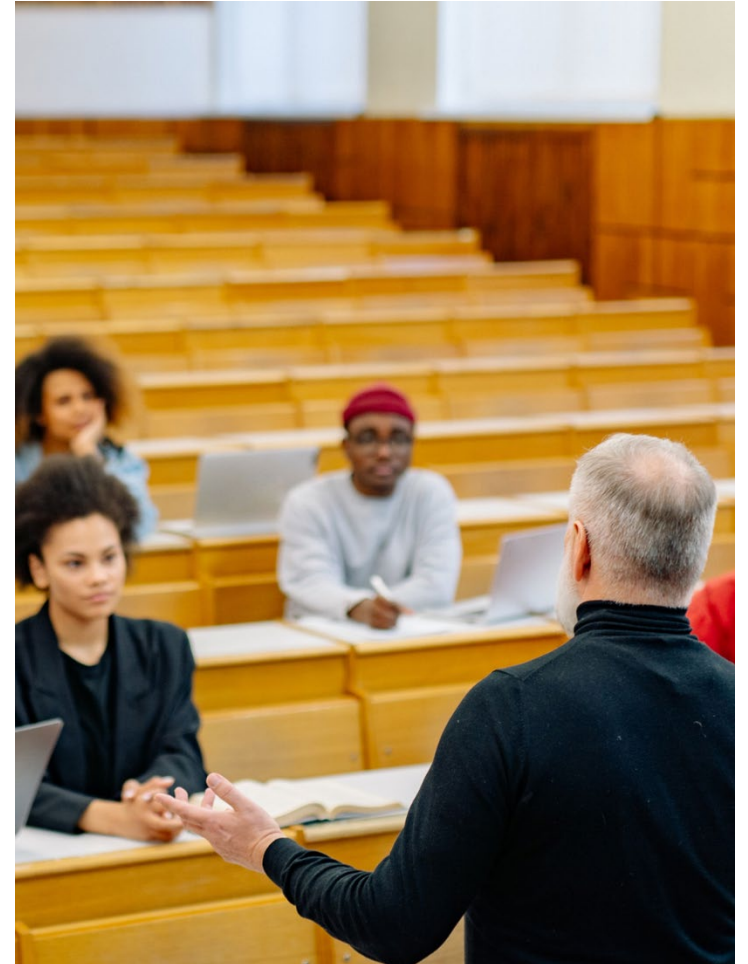
# Preparing for graduate school in School Psychology

- **A Bachelor's degree** with a major in:
  - Psychology
  - Child Development
  - Sociology
  - Education or related field
- Volunteer or successful work experience with children and youth may be required
  - Camp, YMCA, or mentoring program
  - tutoring, after school programs



# Preparing for graduate school in School Psychology

- **Masters degree** (M.Sc, M.Ed, M.A.)
  - 2 to 3+ years (some programs and provinces may include a 10 to 12 month internship)
  - Allows for work in schools, hospitals, private clinics
  - Independent practice depends on province



# Preparing for graduate school in school psychology

- **Doctorate** (Ph.D., Psy.D.)
  - >90 graduate semester hours
  - 4 to 6+ years (includes one year internship)
  - Allows for work in schools, academia, clinics, research
  - More options for independent practice





# Canadian Graduate Programs in School Psychology



- 10 graduate programs in School Psychology in Canada
- Four Ph.D. program accredited by the Canadian Psychological Association (CPA)
- Some programs offer master's and doctoral level, others offer master's level only
- Check out program websites for more details
- <https://cpa.ca/sections/Educational>



# Graduate School Coursework

Develop knowledge and skills in  
**Prevention and Intervention Services for Students and Families**  
typically including

- Assessment
- Academic/learning interventions
- Mental and behavioural health interventions
- Counselling
- Consultation
- Instructional support
- Special education services
- Crisis preparedness, response, and recovery
- Family-school-community collaboration
- Cultural responsiveness



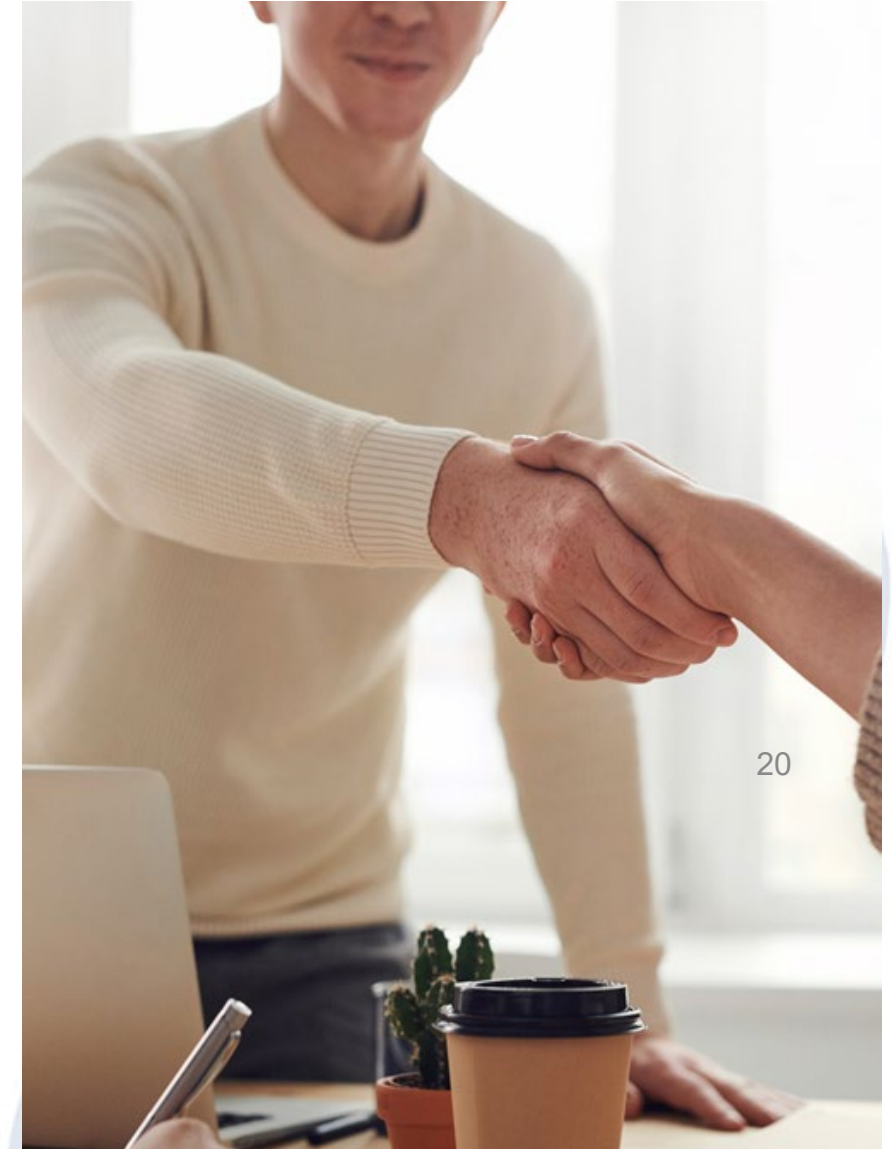
# Graduate School Coursework

Develop knowledge and skills in  
**Foundations of Services Needed in Schools**  
typically including

- Data collection and analysis
- Resilience and risk factors
- Consultation and collaboration
- Diversity in development and learning
- Research and program evaluation
- Professional ethics
- Education law

# Getting a Job as a School Psychologist

- School Psychologists must hold a current, valid credential for practice
- Licensure/Registration/Certification varies by province
- Independent practice may require an additional credential





# JOB OUTLOOK?



- High demand for school psychologists
- **Particular need for professionals from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds**
- “School psychologist” has been listed in [Top 10 among Best Social Services Jobs](#) in *U.S. News & World Report*.

# A GREAT CAREER CHOICE!

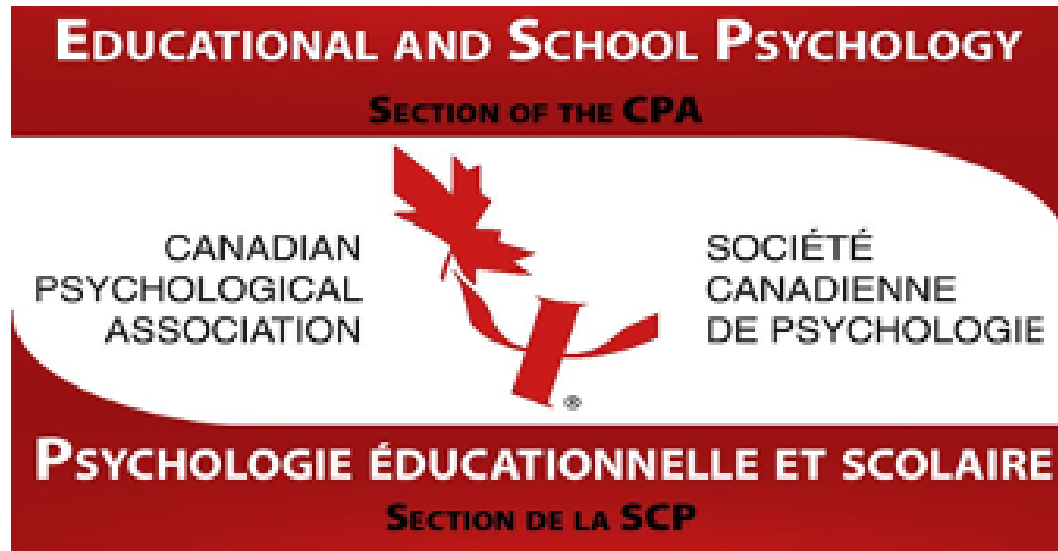
- **Positively** impact the lives of youth
- **Help** parents and educators
- **Flexible** school schedule
- **Range** of responsibilities
- **Variety** of work settings



# The Canadian Psychological Association Educational & School Psychology Section

## Acknowledgements

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  - **The National Association of School Psychologists (NASP)** for sharing their slides (the presentation has been adapted from Stephen Andrew (2004); NASP.org, 2015)  
[www.nasponline.org](http://www.nasponline.org)
- The members of the **Educational and School Psychology Section's Advocacy** committee for their work on the presentation  
<https://cpa.ca/sections/Educational/>



# Questions?

**For more information  
about school psychology  
visit:**

**[https://cpa.ca/sections/  
Educational/](https://cpa.ca/sections/Educational/)**

**[www.nasponline.org](http://www.nasponline.org)**

