



FACT SHEET

Specialized Instructional Support Personnel

The National Alliance of Specialized Instructional Support Personnel (NASISP) is the coalition of national organizations representing the professionals who provide critical supports to enable student success. Specialized instructional support personnel (SISP) perform a wide range of activities in schools, including a broad array of prevention and intervention services that promote effective teaching and learning and promote school success. This terminology clarifies that these education professionals possess specialized skills that enhance quality instruction. SISP also collaborate with teachers and school staff to ensure that students receive high quality instruction responsive to their diverse academic, physical, social, emotional, and mental health needs.

SISP are part of a multidisciplinary education team and encompass a large number of staff categories with a broad set of responsibilities in schools. The disciplines included are as follows: school counselors, school nurses, school psychologists, and school social workers; occupational therapists, physical therapists, art therapists, dance/movement therapists, and music therapists; speech-language pathologists and audiologists.

Defined in the Every Student Succeeds Act (2015), the term ‘specialized instructional support personnel’ means— “(i) school counselors, school social workers, and school psychologists; and “(ii) other qualified professional personnel, such as school nurses, speech language pathologists, and school librarians, involved in providing assessment, diagnosis, counseling, educational, therapeutic, and other necessary services (including related services as that term is defined in section 602 of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (20 U.S.C. 1401) as part of a comprehensive program to meet student needs.” Although we are referred to as the providers of *related services* under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA, Sec. 602, paragraph 22), we aim to make these terms consistent in federal education statute to further reduce the silos of service delivery within education practice.

SISP professionals work with teachers, administrators, and parents to ensure that all students are successful in school. Our coalition seeks to empower SISP professionals by encouraging multidisciplinary collaboration, and affirming their role in education’s best practices and their involvement in school improvement efforts. This includes advocacy for the students and families who deserve and can benefit from specialized instructional support services.

Critical SISP tasks include:

- Supporting effective teaching and improved student learning, including consultation with teachers and families, and ensuring that assessments are linked to instruction;
- Working together with teachers and administrators to develop a positive school climate and improve school safety;
- Providing behavioral interventions to reduce disciplinary infractions and improve classroom management skills;

- Providing educational programs and activities that reduce barriers to teaching and learning and support improved student outcomes;
- Providing services and interventions to address mental health issues and promote social and emotional development, including individual and group counseling and coordination with community mental health services and programs;
- Creating a continuum of support services for all students and providing various instructional strategies to facilitate learning in all classrooms, including problem-solving instruction, and remedial interventions;
- Participating, as members of the school team, in professional development to ensure high quality learning;
- Fostering collaboration between general and special education programs and staff, between the community and schools, and between schools and parents.

Members of NASISP

The National Alliance of Specialized Instructional Support Personnel (NASISP) represents over a million specialized instructional support personnel (SISP) nationwide who provide and support school-based prevention and intervention services to reduce barriers to educational success, ensure positive conditions for learning, and help all students achieve academically and become productive citizens. SISP work with teachers, administrators, community providers, and families to ensure all students are successful in school. Our coalition empowers SISP by encouraging multidisciplinary collaboration, highlighting their use of evidence-based practices, and promoting their involvement in school improvement efforts. This includes advocacy for the students and families who deserve and can benefit from specialized instructional support services.

American Art Therapy Association (AATA)
 American Counseling Association (ACA)
 American Council for School Social Work (ACSSW)
 American Dance Therapy Association (ADTA)
 American Federation of Teachers (AFT)
 American Music Therapy Association (AMTA)
 American Occupational Therapy Association (AOTA)
 American Psychological Association (APA)
 American Physical Therapy Association (APTA)
 American School Counselor Association (ASCA)
 American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ASHA)
 Council for Exceptional Children (CEC)
 National Association for College Admission Counseling (NACAC)
 National Association of Pupil Services Administrators (NAPSA)
 National Association of School Nurses (NASN)
 National Association of School Psychologists (NASP)
 National Association of Social Workers (NASW)
 National Association of State Directors of Special Education (NASDSE)
 National Education Association (NEA)
 School Social Work Association of America (SSWAA)

For more information go to: www.NASISP.org or contact info@nasisp.org