



FACT SHEET

Specialized Instructional Support Personnel

The National Alliance of Specialized Instructional Support Personnel (NASISP) is the coalition of 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. 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.

Defined in the No Child Left Behind Act (Sec. 9101, paragraph 36), *pupil services personnel* are also the providers of *related services* under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA, Sec. 602, paragraph 22). To capture all aspects of these job descriptions and provide consistency, NASISP refers to these professionals as *specialized instructional support personnel* (SISP). This title was specially chosen to signify that these professionals possess specialized skills that enhance quality instruction to help students be successful in school. This term has been incorporated in a number of legislative proposals and bills in Congress.

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