



Fact Sheet

Specialized Instructional Support Personnel

The National Alliance of Specialized Instructional Support Personnel (NASISP) represents over a million Specialized Instructional Support Personnel (SISP) professionals nationwide who provide and support school-based prevention and intervention services to address barriers to educational success, ensure positive conditions for learning, and help all students achieve academically and ultimately become productive citizens. These professionals work with teachers, administrators, and families to ensure that all students are successful in school. Our coalition seeks to empower SISP professionals by affirming their role in educational best practices, promoting multidisciplinary collaboration, and encouraging their involvement in school improvement efforts.

SISP provide a wide range of education-related professional services in our schools, including a variety of prevention and intervention services that promote effective classroom learning and teaching. SISP regularly partner and collaborate with teachers and school staff to ensure that students receive high quality instruction and supports that are responsive to their diverse developmental needs.

Critical SISP tasks include:

- Designing and implementing interventions and accommodations for educational programs and activities and providing various instructional strategies to facilitate learning in all classrooms, including problem-solving instruction, and remedial interventions;
- Supporting effective teaching and improved student learning, including consultation with teachers and families, and ensuring that assessments are linked to instruction;
- Creating a continuum of support services for all students that reduce barriers to teaching and learning and support improved student social, emotional, and academic outcomes;
- Providing behavioral interventions to prevent and reduce disciplinary infractions and improve student behavior and classroom management;
- Providing mental health services and interventions, including school-wide prevention and resiliency-building programs, individual and group counseling, and coordination with community mental health programs and services;
- Working together with school staff and administrators to create a safe and supportive learning environment, maintain a positive school climate, and improve school safety;
- Fostering engagement and collaboration between general and special education programs and staff, between schools and families, and between schools and the community;
- Providing and participating in professional development to ensure high quality instruction, as members of the school team and as stakeholders in school improvement and ongoing education reforms.

Defined and highlighted in the 2015 reauthorization of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA), otherwise referred to as the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA, Sec. 8002, Paragraph 47), *specialized instructional support personnel (SISP)* are included and affirmed as important stakeholders in the development and implementation of state and local education programs and school-improvement strategies. SISP are also the providers of *related services* under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA, Sec. 602, paragraph 22). To capture all aspects of their role in education and ease confusion between statutes, we will collectively refer to these professionals as SISP. Statutory definitions and references in the law are available on the NASISP website at www.nasisp.org. (LINK to Federal Definitions).

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 on our members and services, go to: www.NASISP.org or contact info@nasisp.org