

# Florida Association of School Psychologists Legislative Platform - 2025



**Joe Latimer, PhD**

**President**

[president@fasp.org](mailto:president@fasp.org)  
813-219-0112

**Austin Cole, MS**

**Chair, Public Policy and  
Professional Relations**

[publicpolicy@fasp.org](mailto:publicpolicy@fasp.org)  
931-319-0728

## FASP's Mission

The mission of the Florida Association of School Psychologists is to promote and advocate for the mental health and educational development of Florida's children, youth, and families and to advance the profession of school psychology.

## FASP SUPPORTS LEGISLATIVE EFFORTS TO:

### ***Increase Access to Mental and Behavioral Health***

Nearly 6 students in each classroom report significant sadness or anxiety. FASP supports legislation that promotes access to preventative and responsive student mental health services in schools that are implemented by certified and licensed professionals (school psychologists, counselors, and social workers).

### ***Recognize School Psychology as a Critical Shortage Area***

Because Florida faces a shortage of school psychologists at a current ratio of 1 psychologist to 2,000 students (the National Association of School Psychologists recommends 1 to 500), FASP advocates for recruitment incentives, including paid internships, competitive salaries, and loan forgiveness to address the critical shortage and meet student needs.

### ***Increase Implementation of Effective School-Wide Discipline Policies and Practices***

FASP advocates for increasing the use of proactive and supportive behavioral interventions. School psychologists are highly trained in strategies such as Positive Behavioral Supports to intervene to improve student behavior, reduce exclusionary discipline, and improve academic outcomes and campus safety. FASP opposes the use of suspension and expulsion, except in cases where student and staff safety and welfare are concerned, and the invalidated practice of corporal punishment.

### ***Address Data Elements Related to School-Initiated Baker Acts***

FASP advocates for schools to report additional data on Baker Acts, such as race, grade, gender, and disability status, for greater transparency and support. FASP also advocates for school psychologists to be authorized to initiate Baker Acts in response to student crises.

### ***Support Policies and Legislation That Affirm the Rights of ALL of Florida Students***

FASP is committed to educational equity and the protection of students' rights. FASP opposes any policies or practices that discriminate against individuals based on race, sex, gender identity, immigration status, abilities, or any other characteristic.

## How can FASP be of service?

The FASP Executive Board can provide expertise and timely information to members of the Florida legislature and staff on multiple topics including general education, exceptional student education, educational data, grade retention and student progression, the mental health and well-being of students, improving educational equity, multi-tiered systems of support (MTSS), progress monitoring and supports for students struggling academically, emotionally, and behaviorally.

Lobby Information:

Cerra Consulting Group, Inc.

Bob Cerra, Lobbyist

John Cerra, Lobbyist

206 South Monroe Street, Suite 104

Tallahassee, FL 32310

[cerraj@comcast.net](mailto:cerraj@comcast.net) | 850-222-4428

# Florida Association of School Psychologists Legislative Platform - 2025



**Joe Latimer, PhD**

**President**

[president@fasp.org](mailto:president@fasp.org)

813-219-0112

**Austin Cole, MS**

**Chair, Public Policy and  
Professional Relations**

[publicpolicy@fasp.org](mailto:publicpolicy@fasp.org)

931-319-0728

## FASP's Mission

The mission of the Florida Association of School Psychologists is to promote and advocate for the mental health and educational development of Florida's children, youth, and families and to advance the profession of school psychology.

## FASP Outstanding Legislator Awardees

2023

Senator Keith Perry

2022

Representative Allison Tant

2021

Senator Lori Berman

2020

Representative Jennifer Necole Webb

2019

Senator Kelli Stargel

2018

Senator Kathleen Passidomo

2017

Representative Gayle Harrell

## Legacy Award for Distinguished Service to Children

2009

Senator Eleanor Sobel