Top Three Distinguishing Factors for ESA Behavioral Health Providers Specific to Social and Emotional Health and Wellness**

School Psychologists	School Counselors	School Social Workers	School Nurses
School psychologists specialize in **analyzing complex student and school problems** and selecting and implementing appropriate **evidence-based interventions** to improve outcomes at home and school	Deliver comprehensive **Tier 1, 2** and some Tier 3 prevention, intervention and support services to students in the **academic, social/emotional and career & college readiness** domains aligned with mindset and behavior standards*	The integral link between home, school, and community in **providing tier 1, tier 2, and tier 3 services to students, families, and school personnel** which remove barriers and maximize academic and social success	Clinical assessment and analysis of common *and* complex student health needs. Writing, reviewing, and monitoring **Individual Health Plans and Emergency Health Plans** including students with mental health diagnosis
Extensive knowledge of the brain, neurological development, and comprehensive child development and how these relate to emotional regulation, prosocial and pro-academic behavior, childhood disabilities, and other mental health needs, as well as **evaluation methods** grounded in research and special education law	**Liaison and link between students, staff, parents and community partners** to coordinate services and programs that support each student's growth and development **primarily with tier 1 and 2,** and some tier 3 students*	**Delivers evidence-based education, behavioral consultation, mental health support, and case management** services comparable to wrap around services, to engage a student's social emotional adjustment to school and society	**Early detection of emotional or mental health concerns-** all students have access to school nurses via self-referral or referral by school staff which allows for nurses to evaluate students presenting with physical complaints for associated emotional/mental health concerns
School psychologists' training in **data collection and interpretation for** mental health ensures that decisions made about students, the school system, and related programs and learning supports are based on appropriate evidence, such as in Multi-Tiered Systems of Support (MTSS) and in collaborative consultation	Provide **systemic leadership and delivery of comprehensive programming** that is designed to provide all students with a safe and positive school culture and is aligned with the school's mission, vision and strategic plan	Provides innovative leadership, interdisciplinary collaboration, systems coordination (both within the school district and outside of the school district) and professional consultation, with **specific focus on mental health and behavioral needs**	Nursing services to **address health barriers to Free and Appropriate Public Education (FAPE):** medication administration clean intermittent catheterization gastrostomy tube feedings other procedures as needed

This document is being created through the collaborative efforts of the Washington School Counselors Association, School Nurse Organization of Washington, Washington State Association of School Psychologists and the Washington Association of School Social Workers.

*Please note: The distinctions noted in roles are more evident in the secondary school level than when seen in the elementary level where there are more similarity between the two disciplines.

**This is intended to highlight the main elements that distinguish each profession in reference to mental health and wellness services only, and does not imply that the skills listed are an exhaustive list of roles, or that those can only be completed by that category of professional.