

NEW SCHOOL PSYCHOLOGIST MENTORING PROGRAM

Cycle Four: Professional Development Guidance

The value of professional development: In Delaware, teachers and specialists including school psychologists are required to grow professionally. **To maintain your continuing license you must acquire 90 clock hours of professional development over the five year period.** *School psychologists who are nationally certified need to obtain 75 clock hours every three years to maintain the NCSP.*

The practice of school psychology has and will continue to undergo significant changes and challenges as new knowledge and technological advances are introduced. The development of new intervention techniques, assessment procedures, computerized assistance and so forth will require that practitioners keep abreast of these innovations as well as obtain appropriate professional education and training in these areas.

Continuing professional development is a dynamic process that flows from the intrinsic motivation, interest, learning history and professional context of the individual. It is a process by which school psychologists actively participate and engage in activities designed to continue to enhance and upgrade their professional training skills and to help ensure quality that service is provided to students, staff and parents.

Worthwhile professional development is purposeful and directional. In this cycle you will explore purposeful development of your knowledge and skills. You will do so after you have analyzed your current level of development.

You may elect to develop your knowledge and skills while doing one of the following:

- **Taking part in professional development offered by your district**
- **Taking a class to enhance your targeted area**
- **Conducting action research related to your target area**
- **Taking part in a lesson study with three or more school psychologists/educators**
- **Conducting a book study**
- **Other approved professional development activities**

Keep in mind that districts/schools may specify professional growth activities related to local curriculum and instructional strategies.