



NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF SCHOOL PSYCHOLOGISTS
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*Enhancing the mental health and
educational competence of all children.*

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ADVOCACY ALERT: Participate in the NATIONAL CHILDREN'S MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS DAY, May 8 2008.

On May 8, 2008, thousands of individuals and organizations in America will participate in the National Children's Mental Health Awareness Day. The goals of this "Awareness Day" are to (1) raise awareness about effective programs for children's mental health needs; (2) demonstrate how children's mental health initiatives promote positive youth development, recovery, and resilience; and (3) show how children with mental health needs thrive in their communities. Funding for these activities is provided by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) and the donations of national professional organizations. NASP is an original co-sponsor of this event and this year has joined with 12 other co-sponsoring organizations and nine "supporter" organizations to make this day a success.

Three levels of activities (national, state, and local) will be promoted as part of the Awareness Day celebration. At the national level, there will be a U.S. Congressional briefing and a special musical event celebrating youth resilience. State organizations, school districts, and individual practitioners are invited to participate in the National Children's Mental Health Awareness Day by sponsoring your own awareness day events. This is a terrific opportunity for state school psychology organizations to lead or partner with other educators in sponsoring mental wellness promotion and prevention activities, materials, and resources. In the past, state associations have used this day to launch school mental health campaigns, advertisements, newspaper articles, radio and television segments, or even legislative activities like bills or legislative briefings on children's mental health. Individuals and school districts can participate by featuring mental health promotion and prevention activities, such as making school announcements, distributing NASP handouts that address student mental health needs, putting articles in district and school newspapers, or doing presentations to parents and school faculty. The NASP website is loaded with materials to help you, including the NASP "Success in School/Skills for Life" toolkit, which has numerous articles, handouts, and other resources for parents and teachers. NASP members can [download these free materials here](#).

We are interested in hearing how you and/or your state association plan to celebrate this important day. NASP members and state associations that decide to sponsor Awareness Day activities should complete and submit a pledge form so that the efforts of school psychologists are nationally recognized. [Pledge forms can be accessed at this link](#). Participating in the National Children's Mental Health Awareness Day is a terrific way for school psychologists to be recognized as child advocates and leaders in school mental health.