



Saskatchewan College of Psychologists

1026 Winnipeg Street
Regina SK, S4R 8P8

Tel: (306) 352-1699
Fax: (306) 352-1697
Email: skcp@sasktel.net
www.skcp.ca

Membership Advisory

Assessment for Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada (AANDC)

Members of the Saskatchewan College of Psychologists (College) providing services to First Nations students in school environments periodically may be asked to assess them for eligibility for high cost funding. Such funding allows students with identified learning, behavioral or mental health needs to access to specialized supports and resources so as to maximize their learning outcomes.

The College has been made aware that at times due to limited psychological staff resources school divisions have utilized non-Psychologist professionals to administer psychometric tools for the purpose of identifying students with intensive needs. College members have at times been asked by their employers to “sign-off” on the test results from the assessment with little or no direct knowledge of the student. The results have then been submitted as an assessment to support a funding request. The outcome of the assessment process is to establish student need for specialized services, which in essence could be considered to constitute the establishment of a diagnosis (es). The College has concerns about such practices and respectfully reminds members who may be asked to provide assessments as noted above of the following:

1. The Psychologist must obtain informed consent from parents/ guardians/those legally entitled to provide consent, prior to any formal assessment or screen being initiated. If non-Psychologists are to be utilized in the assessment process parent/guardians must be informed of that fact, the qualification of the other professional, and the supervisory relationship. “Blanket consent” provided by parents/guardians at the beginning of the school term for general services, does not constitute informed consent for the purpose of psychological services.
2. The choice of assessment tool must be appropriate to the referral question and the student’s abilities/capacity.
3. If a non-Psychologist is to be utilized in the assessment process as a Psychometrist, members are reminded that they must ensure that they meet the requirements established by the test company for use of the tool. Members are responsible for the oversight of the administration of the psychometric tool(s) if they are going to sign-off on the assessment. (Please see College advisory entitled “Use of Psychometrists”)
4. Members are reminded that if they are ordering test materials on behalf of their employer they are responsible to ensure that those materials are being appropriately used, and used by only those qualified to do so.
5. Assessments must not be based on a single source of information. Multiple sources of information and multiple informants should be utilized in an assessment.
6. Members must have a working knowledge of, and experience with, the student before signing off on an assessment that identifies need or problem.

7. Only Full Practice Psychologists with the Authorized Practice Endorsement (APE) on their license are entitled to communicate diagnoses.
8. Members are responsible to debrief the results of the assessment and all recommendations with the parents/guardians or the student, and with parental/guardian permission, the teaching staff.

Members are encouraged to discuss these responsibilities with their employers, and are reminded of the general responsibilities of Psychologists as outlined in the Canadian Code of Ethics for Psychologists (3rd Edition) and the Saskatchewan College of Psychologists Professional Practice Guidelines.

❖ this advisory was drafted in collaboration with AANDC