



Indiana Association of School Psychologists (IASP) is an organization made up of school psychologists practicing and/or living in Indiana. IASP stands with people of color and people who are marginalized by society. IASP is intensely pained and incensed at the recent killings of George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, and Ahmaud Arbery. IASP sends their condolences to the parents and family members of these victims. IASP stands firm against discrimination of people of color as well as discrimination against people based upon their sexual orientation or economic standing.

We know that the events of Late Winter/Spring 2020 affect our members differently depending on their history and experiences. IASP offers encouragement and support for our members whose safety and wellbeing are threatened on a daily basis due to the color of their skin. We encourage everyone to reflect on the privilege and power that you have.

Advocacy for social justice is an underpinning of our practice as school psychologists. Social justice as adopted by the National Association of School Psychologists (NASP) in April 2017 is defined as, "... both a process and a goal that requires action. School psychologists work to ensure the protection of the educational rights, opportunities, and well-being of all children, especially those whose voices have been muted, identities obscured, or needs ignored. Social justice requires promoting non-discriminatory practices and the empowerment of families and communities. School psychologists enact social justice through culturally-responsive professional practice and advocacy to create schools, communities, and systems that ensure equity and fairness for all children and youth." NASP released a [Call for Action](#) last month. This statement includes several actions that educators and school psychologists can take to support our students to proactively help our students and staff.

IASP began to take steps to educate our members in social justice last year. At our board retreat June 2019, Dr. Chavez Phelps provided an introduction to social justice to the IASP board. At Fall Conference 2019, Dr. Phelps and Dr. David Shriberg presented a 3 hour workshop on social justice and implicit justice. In our upcoming webinar series, they are going to continue to provide education for our practitioners. As we are evaluating and editing our strategic plan, we are embedding social justice into our action plan.

Now is the time for us to work together to address the long-standing social and racial injustices through our learning, professional development, active listening, and advocacy. We need to support the needs of our students, families, and communities of color.