

Kyle Potter
Parliamentarian

What is your background, professional experience and education?

I am a school psychologist currently in my 3rd year working in Montgomery County Public Schools. I serve three elementary schools in Silver Spring, each with a large number of English Language Learners and low income students. I hold Bachelor's degrees in psychology and music from Nazareth College, in Rochester, NY, a Master's degree in psychology from Towson University, and a doctorate in school psychology from Syracuse University. During my training, I worked in schools within rural, suburban, and urban settings, across all age groups. I also had wonderful opportunities to get practical experience working in a children's hospital, an outpatient psychiatric hospital, a concussion center, and a university psychological services clinic. In addition to these experiences, I taught undergraduate courses in psychology including foundations of human behavior and child development.

What is your leadership capability?

Throughout my time in graduate school I jumped at the chance to take any leadership roll I could. This started when I became the Towson University student representative to MSPA. That experience gave me the opportunity to learn the ins and outs of MSPA's operations and gain an appreciation for school psychologists' abilities to shape policy, provide continuing education, and support each other as professionals. When I enrolled at Syracuse, I took on the responsibility of being a student liaison to program faculty and took an active role in both student and faculty interviews. Since being back in Maryland, I have been an active member of the MSPA Legislative Committee, and have worked with that group to help advocate for school psychologists across the state. I also served a year on the MSPA board as a co-representative for Montgomery County. Currently, I continue to be an active member of the Legislative Committee and, along with other members, have taken on the task of updating MSPA's social media accounts so we can continue to improve our outreach to members, community stakeholders, and legislators. I have also taken a role as a member of an MSDE workgroup charged with defining school psychologists' roles in evaluating for dyslexia, dyscalculia, and dysgraphia. In addition to these roles, I also sit on MSPA's executive board as the Parliamentarian. In that position, I am responsible for making sure board meetings run smoothly from a procedural standpoint. I am also responsible for maintaining records regarding MSPA's recognition of Local School Psychology Organizations and Local School Psychology Training Programs.

What are the future issues that will impact your tenure?

There are several pressing issues that I see impacting the field of school psychology in the coming years. First and foremost is the continued need for more school psychologists working in our public school systems. School psychologists are highly trained professionals and the most competent mental health providers in schools, yet many of us continue to be misused by local school systems that still see our role solely as evaluators. The second, related, issue is the continued encroachment of other professionals into our field. School systems are increasingly

turning to outside organizations and clinicians to help fulfill the needs of our students. Too often, these providers lack the knowledge and training to effectively provide services in a public school setting, and the quality of care our students receives is inadequate. I will continue to work on behalf of school psychologists in Maryland to make sure we are at the table when funding decisions are made and to continue to educate key stakeholders on the outstanding work that we do. We have made some progress, but there is certainly more work to do.