



## **Association of State and Provincial Psychology Boards**

### **July 2023 Report**

The Association of State and Provincial Psychology Boards (ASPPB) represents the psychology regulatory bodies throughout Canada and the United States. ASPPB's mission is: Serving member jurisdictions by promoting excellence in regulation and advancing public protection in psychology. Association membership is comprised of state, provincial, and territorial jurisdiction member boards as well as individual members who are former board members or staff of psychology regulatory bodies. Any organization involved in the regulation of the practice of psychology outside the United States and Canada shall be entitled to apply for affiliate membership in the Association.

ASPPB works to meet the needs of its members through the provision of services such as the Examination for Professional Practice in Psychology (EPPP), model legislation, mobility programs, consultation, and topics related to psychology regulation such as graduate training, supervised experience, telepsychology and continuing professional development. Further, ASPPB serves its member jurisdictions through collaboration with the education and training communities, and professional psychology organizations, in efforts to demystify the licensure process for applicants, by promotion of common standards and processes for licensure, and through development of model programs that promote public protection. For 62 years ASPPB has been providing these essential services to licensing boards throughout the United States and Canada.

**ASPPB 2023 Board of Directors:** President: Herbert L. Stewart, PhD (VA); President-Elect: Michelle G. Paul, PhD (NV); Past-President: Alan B. Slusky, PhD, CPsych (MB); Secretary-Treasurer: Cindy Olvey, PsyD (AZ); Members-At-Large; Hugh D. Moore, PhD, MBA (TN), Jennifer C. Laforce, PhD, CPsych (MB), and Ramona N. Mellott, PhD (AZ).

**Chief Executive Officer:** Mariann Burnetti-Atwell, PsyD

**Advocacy for Best Practices in Psychology Regulation:** Member boards, with increasing frequency, have faced board consolidation, Sunset Review, and new legislative initiatives that present challenges to best practices in psychology regulation. ASPPB offers advocacy services to assist member boards as they respond to regulatory challenges. ASPPB is committed to increasing the regulatory literacy of key constituents as they make impactful decisions regarding the licensing of psychologists and investing in initiatives that advance best practices.

**ASPPB 2023-2028 Strategic Plan:** In January 2023, a new Strategic Plan for the Association was implemented. This plan incorporates the findings from ASPPB's two-year, seven-stage diagnostic process that was undertaken with members, liaisons, as well as ASPPB's own board and staff. Since the diagnostic launched in 2020, the distillation of the project's hundreds of hours, dozens of engagements, and 355 pages of feedback have been shared at each step, most recently at the 2022 Annual Meeting last October where the Association unveiled the four themes and their mandates, as well as the 25 total initiatives which comprise them. The aim of these initiatives is to address a range of areas where stakeholders argued for either remedy or innovation. Those areas include communications, structures of stewardship for major initiatives, ASPPB's governance, internal dynamics, the ASPPB brand, uniformity, the relationship with the guild, legislative affairs and engagement in antiregulation/anti-licensure arenas, meetings, and more. You can now find the strategic plan — including context on those 25 initiatives and the associated tactics that will guide their successful implementation – on ASPPB's website. For those who wish to get in touch regarding the strategic plan, ASPPB has designated an email address: [strategicplan@asppb.org](mailto:strategicplan@asppb.org).

**The Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) Grants Support ASPPB Programs and Services:** Since 2012, ASPPB has received grant funding from HRSA's Office for the Advancement of Telemedicine to support the implementation of ASPPB's universal application and credentials verification service called PLUS as well as the development and implementation of the telepsychology compact called PSYPACT. In May 2019, ASPPB was awarded a new HRSA federal grant to address the regulatory research needs of the profession of psychology. This grant provides five years of federal funding for the establishment of a psychology licensure-focused research center, The Centre for Data and Analysis on Psychology Licensure ([www.asppbcentre.org](http://www.asppbcentre.org)). The primary purpose of the Centre is to support psychology licensing boards in making informed licensure decisions through consistent data gathering, analysis and reporting. A major product of the Centre is the ASPPB InFocus. The ASPPB InFocus 2022 is now available on the Centre's website.

**Liaison Activities.** The ASPPB Board of Directors strongly believes in the importance of communication between ASPPB and other psychology organizations, councils of training directors, and regulatory federations from other professions. ASPPB has endeavored to promote these relationships by attending meetings as liaisons when possible and providing consultation and resources that will help other groups to understand the regulatory process and the common problems that disrupt initial licensure/registration, professional mobility, and regulation of professional conduct in psychology. The ASPPB web site ([www.asppb.net](http://www.asppb.net)) continues to undergo renovation and improvement to provide better licensure information for all interested parties, including faculty, supervisors, and students. Faculty and supervisors can find resources to aid in preparing their students, interns, and trainees for the EPPP, and they can also view the licensure requirements for each ASPPB member jurisdiction.

## EXAMINATION PROGRAM INITIATIVES

**Examination for the Professional Practice in Psychology (EPPP):** After years of exploration and discussion with ASPPB member boards and other psychology stakeholder groups, the ASPPB Board of Directors approved the development and implementation of new content and question types designed to assess foundational professional skills at entry-level licensure along with the foundational knowledge

currently assessed by the EPPP. Adding the assessment of professional skills (Part 2-Skills) to the assessment of professional knowledge (Part 1-Knowledge), the EPPP provides member boards a comprehensive examination package by which to assess a licensure candidate's competence to practice independently.

In November 2020, ASPPB began offering a "rolling adoption" for the two-part EPPP. Member boards currently have two options for licensure examination. One option is the continued use of the standardized assessment of knowledge, the EPPP (Part 1-Knowledge). A second option is the use of both the EPPP (Part 1-Knowledge) and the EPPP (Part 2-Skills). The Skills portion of the exam can only be taken after passing the Knowledge portion of the exam and is not offered as a stand-alone exam. To date, seven jurisdictions have opted to include the skills-based portion of the EPPP for their licensure process.

On October 28, 2022 the ASPPB Board of Directors announced that starting January 1, 2026, the EPPP will be offered only as a two-part examination.

**EPPP Scores for Doctoral Programs:** The *EPPP Scores for Doctoral Programs Report 2017-2022*, summarizing 2017 through 2019 data separately from those of 2020 through 2022, is now available on the ASPPB website ([www.asppb.net](http://www.asppb.net)). This report contains aggregated EPPP pass rates for Doctoral programs accredited by American Psychology Association and Canadian Psychological Association to assist them in preparing self-studies and annual reports for accreditation. The data also allows programs to track the pass rates for their graduates in the most recent years. ASPPB is currently working to create additional formats for providing performance data that would allow programs and prospective students to evaluate the EPPP performance of individual programs on an annual or more targeted basis to track the impact of curricular changes or other program developments. Going forward, the *Doctoral Programs Report* will be updated annually with the most current five-year period included.

**Psychopharmacology Examination for Psychologists (PEP):** In 2015, ASPPB agreed to take over responsibility for the development and maintenance of the PEP from the American Psychological Association. This exam is used in those jurisdictions that have enacted prescription privileges for psychologists and serves as the exam required for that credential. ASPPB launched the PEP in January 2018. From the launch date through May 2023, 140 exams have been administered. The current states that have enacted prescription privileges for psychologists include New Mexico, Louisiana, Illinois, Iowa, Idaho, and Colorado, as well as in the Public Health Service, the Indian Health Service, the U.S. Military, and the U.S. Territory of Guam.

**Item Review Committee (IRC):** In an effort to further evaluate potential bias on examination questions, ASPPB has created a nine-person panel of psychologists with expertise in cultural competence and experience working with populations that have historically been underserved and marginalized. The IRC is tasked with evaluating items that have been flagged by a Differential Item Functioning Analysis (DIF) as performing differently across racial/ethnic or other demographic groups. The IRC reviews such flagged items for wording that might potentially advantage or disadvantage test takers from different backgrounds.

**Examination Stakeholder Advisory Group (ESTAG):** ASPPB has formed a partnership with the training community to help identify common concerns regarding examination-related matters, to communicate updates, and to serve as a "think tank" for potential research on the EPPP. The ESTAG's 12 members

include representatives from major training communities in the United States and Canada, regulatory members, and experts in measurement and licensure assessment.

## MEMBER SERVICES INITIATIVES

**Mobility Program Initiatives:** ASPPB offers several programs designed to facilitate professional mobility. The Certificate of Professional Qualification (CPQ) attests that the individual holding the certificate meets specific requirements for licensure, including acceptable graduate education, examination performance, supervised experience, and has never had disciplinary action taken against their license. The CPQ facilitates obtaining a license to practice psychology in another jurisdiction for those licensed psychologists meeting the requirements for the CPQ. There are 43 jurisdictions in Canada and the U.S. that accept the CPQ; 11 other jurisdictions recognize the CPQ, but may have additional requirements, such as a transcript or oral exam; and an additional two jurisdictions are in the process of accepting the CPQ. The benefits of the CPQ include an expedited licensure application process, establishment of an account with the ASPPB Credentials Bank to store professional records, free EPPP Score Transfer service, and promotion of greater uniformity in licensure standards.

The Interjurisdictional Practice Certificate (IPC) facilitates temporary practice for psychologists involved in short-term practice (maximum of 30 days per year), such as I/O and consulting work, forensic evaluations, or helping with disaster relief. As of July 1, 2020, psychologists can apply for an IPC, which is one requirement to practice temporarily under the authority of PSYPACT. The E. Passport is a certificate issued by ASPPB and is one requirement to practice telepsychology under the authority of PSYPACT.

**Psychology Interjurisdictional Compact (PSYPACT):** PSYPACT is an interstate compact that facilitates the practice of psychology using telecommunications (telepsychology) and/or temporary in-person, face-to-face psychological practice. What is a compact? Simply stated, a compact is an agreement between two or more states for cooperative effort, mutual assistance, management, or regulation of public policy matters by the states, which transcends the boundaries of one state.

The PSYPACT Commission, a semi- quasi-governmental agency, manages PSYPACT. The PSYPACT Commission and ASPPB are separate entities. Only the Commission can issue the authorization to practice under PSYPACT. PSYPACT has been enacted in 40 states, with 37 of those being effective. Please check out the PSYPACT website at [www.psypact.org](http://www.psypact.org) for the most up-to-date list of PSYPACT jurisdictions and all requirements to practice under the authority of PSYPACT.

**ASPPB Credentials Bank:** The ASPPB Credentials Bank serves as a valuable service to the profession by securely storing valuable licensure-related information for psychologists pertinent to their background and professional careers and serves as an aid to our member jurisdictions should a psychologist seek licensure in another jurisdiction. The Credentials Bank is complimentary for students, trainees, and licensed psychologists. Any graduate student, intern, post-doc, or licensed psychologist can open a Credentials Bank record without charge. With this option for individuals, ASPPB hopes to encourage the collection of workforce data and the creation of a comprehensive psychology licensee database.

The ASPPB Credentials Bank provides primary source verification and electronic storage of licensure-related documents, forms, and materials. The only fee associated with the Credentials Bank will be a nominal service fee charged to release or transmit information to another agency or organization.

**Disciplinary Data System (DDS):** The DDS is a databank developed and maintained by ASPPB to help member boards in their mission to protect the public. It serves as a vital resource to our member jurisdictions and many other credentialing organizations in psychology. Disciplinary actions taken by jurisdictions are reported directly to the DDS and have been since 1985 when the system was created. DDS serves as a resource to all member boards when reviewing applications for licensure and current licensees at renewal. In 2009, ASPPB established the Committee on Disciplinary Issues (CODI) to guide the development and usefulness of this valuable service. ASPPB has agreed to become the reporting agent for several U.S. jurisdictions to the National Practitioner Data Bank.

**ASPPB Resources:** Please introduce yourself to the ASPPB webpage at <https://www.asppb.net/>. The webpage covers a broad range of information for students, exam applicants, early career psychologists, psychologists, training directors, regulatory boards, and the public. Several areas worth spotlighting are:

- Guidelines for the Practice of Telepsychology;
- Guidelines for Closing a Psychology Practice;
- ASPPB Supervision Guidelines; and
- Guidelines for the Use of Social Media by Psychologists in Practice and by Psychology Regulatory Bodies.