

5.3 Availability of professionals with competency in psychology. The Education Committee surveys schools to determine the number and types of mental health professionals available to support classroom teams, their training with respect to developmental psychology and neuroscience in general, and ASD specifically. The work group determines the current roles of mental health professionals with respect to children with ASD, the number of hours they generally devote to each child across different functions (evaluation, IEP planning, and learning and behavior support between IEP meetings). The Education Committee surveys special education directors, regional programs, and education service districts to determine (a) what efforts they have made to increase their access to mental health professionals who have training in ASD, (b) whether they anticipate any changes in the near term, and (c) what barriers exist to their doing so.