

### Justification for Additional Psychologist

Although our overall student population is on the decline, the number of students who require special education evaluations and services is on the rise. We have been receiving many requests for evaluations as a result of the school closure. The chart below outlines the number of evaluations and reevaluations that are completed each year. Typically, a student with an Individual Education Plan gets reevaluated every three years. Students requiring reevaluations every two years are in an Approved Private School or have an Intellectual Disability. In reviewing our population of students, there are 83 students who are Intellectually Disabled and 7 who are in Approved Private Schools out of 943 total students.

We currently have three QCSD school psychologists. The amount of evaluations projected for the 2021-22 school year would require that each school psychologist test and write up 160 evaluations. The average student evaluation takes approximately 4 to 8 hours from start to finish. Writing a legally defensible evaluation or reevaluation is simply not a realistic expectation when there are 181 student days to complete them. Having little to no time to process all of the data and information in an evaluation, while maintaining timelines has impacted our ability to fight legal claims brought against the district in the past. Having four school psychologists would bring caseloads to a more realistic number of evaluations to 120.

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