



# STAFFORD COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

## Curriculum Overview Psychology

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### **Course Description:**

Psychology introduces students to the study of human behavior, theories of learning and the fundamentals of human growth and development. These concepts are explored in relation to how they affect society as a whole, and individuals.

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### **Essential Skills/Processes:** Students will—

- recognize and define psychology
  - analyze the five domains of psychology
  - describe human behavior
  - conceptualize the process of learning
  - identify important psychologists
  - implement psychological scientific research techniques
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### **Essential Knowledge:**

#### **Memory**

- A. Information Processing
- B. Improving Memory
- C. Memory Inaccuracies
- D. Biology of Memory

#### **Introduction to Psychology and Research Methods**

- A. What is psychology?
- B. Why study psychology?
- C. Historical Roots
- D. Psychology as a Profession/Explain major subfields

#### **Psychological Research**

- A. Research Strategies used by psychologists
- B. Purpose and Basic Concept of Statistics

#### **Bio-behavior**

- A. Structure and Function
- B. Genetics
- C. Language
- D. Heredity and Environment

E. Psychological Mechanisms

**Lifespan Development**

- A. Research techniques used to gather data on the developmental process
- B. Development as a lifelong process
- C. Theories of development/ developmental models
- D. Issues surrounding the developmental process

**Emotion & Motivation:**

- A. Physiological, affective, cognitive, and behavioral aspects of emotions and the interactions among these aspects
- B. Effects of motivation and emotion on perception, cognition, and behavior
- C. The role of biology and learning in motivation and emotion
- D. Motivational concepts
- E. Major theories of motivation
- F. Interaction of biological and cultural factors in emotions and motivations

**Thinking and Intelligence/Cognitive Domain**

- A. Characteristics of Learning
- B. Classical Conditioning
- C. Measuring Intelligence
- D. Barriers to Reasoning Rationally
- E. Reasoning
- F. Comparing Learned Behaviors across Cultures
- G. Animal Intelligence
- H. Language
- I. Cognition/Skill

**Personality**

- A. Definition: characteristic thinking, feeling, acting
- B. Approaches and Theories
- C. Assessing Personality

**Social Psychology**

- A. Attributes
- B. Attitudes
- C. Social Influences

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**Resources:**

Virginia Standards of Learning for All Subject and Grade Levels:

[http://www.doe.virginia.gov/testing/sol/standards\\_docs/index.shtml](http://www.doe.virginia.gov/testing/sol/standards_docs/index.shtml)

History and Social Science Curriculum Framework and Resources:

[http://www.doe.virginia.gov/testing/sol/standards\\_docs/history\\_socialscience/index.shtml](http://www.doe.virginia.gov/testing/sol/standards_docs/history_socialscience/index.shtml)

American Psychological Association <http://www.apa.org>

American Psychological Society <http://www.psychologicalscience.org/index.cfm>