

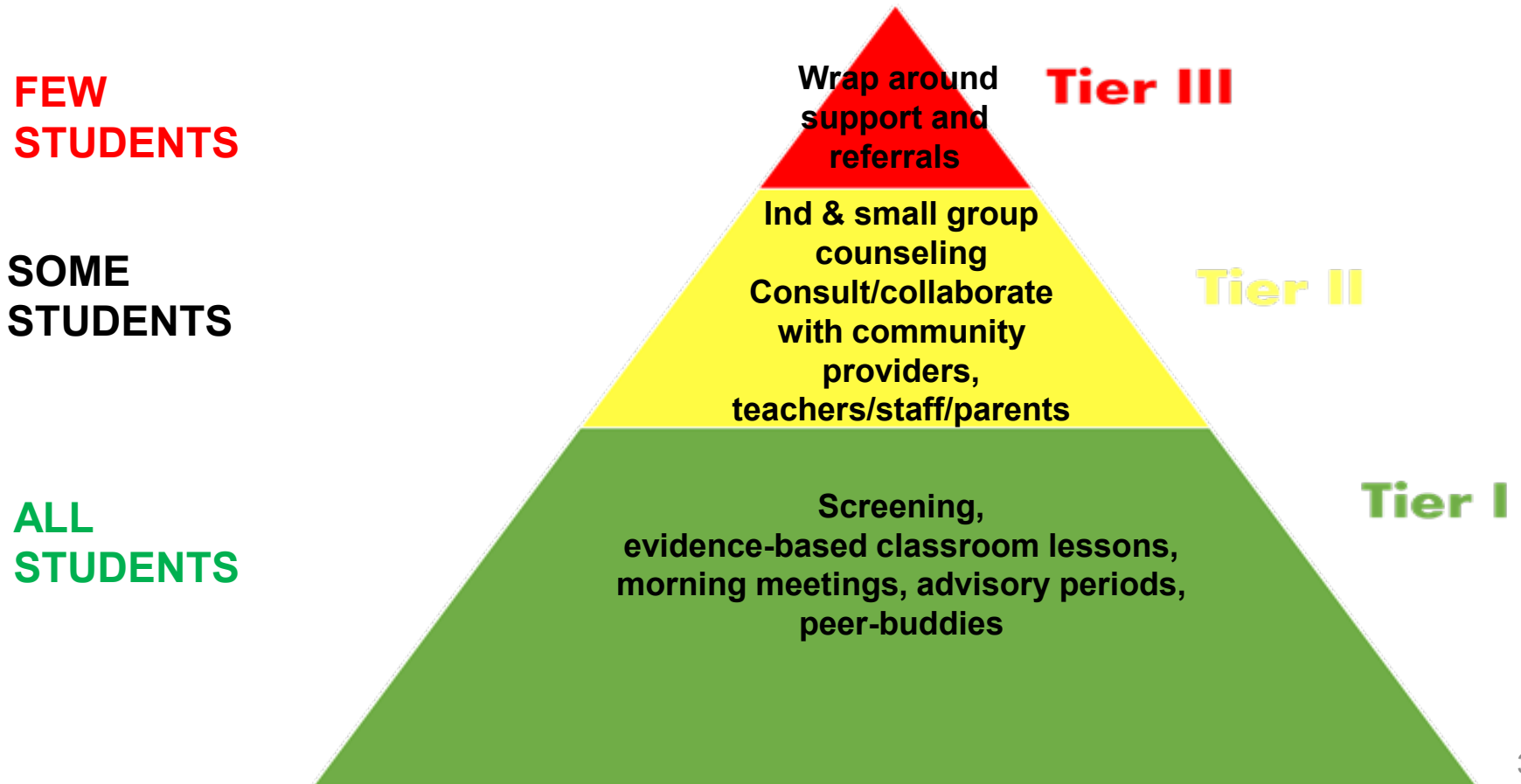
# School Psychologists

- School psychologists are uniquely qualified members of school teams that support students' abilities to learn and teachers' abilities to teach.
- They apply expertise in mental health, learning, and behavior, to help children and youth succeed academically, socially, behaviorally, and emotionally.
- School psychologists partner with families, teachers, school administrators, and other professionals to create safe, healthy, and supportive learning environments that strengthen connections among home, school, and the community
- Their roles may involve assessment for learning disabilities, crisis work, individual and group counseling, and consultation

# Known Effects of Pandemic

- Loss of learning
- Increased stress and mental health risks, including trauma, for students and staff
- Higher risks for students with disabilities; ELL students; LGBTQ+ children and youth
- Increased family stress, instability and financial fragility affecting students and staff
- Grief and loss
- Glaring inequities in impact on communities of color
- Compounded trauma of systemic racism and violence against black communities and other people of color
- Lack of clear federal guidance for schools regarding meeting student needs, particularly with regard to special education
- Inadequate funding and staff resources

# Addressing SEL and Mental Health Needs of Students and Staff



# Access to SMH Professionals: Recommended Ratios

School psychologists:	1:500 students
School counselors:	1:250 students
School social workers	1:250 students
School nurses	1:750 students

However, lack of funding and budget cuts to schools/education means that many school have much higher ratios (e.g. some Districts have 1 school psychologist to 5,000 students)

“Return-to-school” will not be a return to school norm.



Meeting the social-emotional needs of students must be priority #1.

# NASP Resources

- NASP COVID-19 Resource Center

<https://www.nasponline.org/resources-and-publications/resources-and-podcasts/covid-19-resource-center>

- School Reentry Considerations: Supporting Student Social Emotional Learning and Mental Behavioral Health Amidst COVID 19 (ASCA & NASP)

<https://www.nasponline.org/x55418.xml>

- Framework for Effective School Discipline

<https://www.nasponline.org/disciplineframework>

- Equity Considerations During and After COVID-19 School Closures

<https://www.nasponline.org/x55210.xml>

