

School Social Work Services

Promoting and Supporting Growth

School social workers, through their unique training and practice, provide a variety of professional services which foster students' physical, emotional and academic growth. They promote and support the educational process by meeting the individual needs of students and families within the community. These services include providing crisis intervention and counseling, strengthening and supporting parent and family involvement, planning and developing school-based interventions with educators, engaging community resources and assessing the need for special services. School social workers are often involved in helping students and their families with learning, behavior, and/or attendance concerns while strengthening home, school and community partnerships.

School social workers serve all schools in the district on an itinerant basis. Social workers are leaders in several programs including, attendance, drop-out prevention, homeless education services, kinship care services, behavior support services and mental health services for identified students.

School social workers have Master's Degrees in Social work, credentials in school social work and many are licensed as mental health professionals. School social workers in the district bring experience working in various agency settings. They are trained to utilize a strength-based perspective and are experts in navigating the systems that influence students and families.

What are services performed by the School Social Worker?

- Acts as a liaison between the school, family and community agencies.
- Provides outreach services to students, parents and families.
- Refers and helps families access community, medical, mental health and social welfare services.
- Coordinates services with other agencies to develop a comprehensive service delivery system.

- Consults with teachers, administrators, and others to provide insight for students and understanding regarding a particular student's (or group of students' needs) behavior.
- Services on the Student Study Team and Coordinated Services Team (COST) at each school to assist student's experiencing attendance, academic, social, emotional and/or health problems.
- Participates in staffings with local school personnel, parents, and appropriate community agency staff to provide coordinated evaluation and planning.
- Advocates to ensure that the child and family's rights are observed.
- Provides and participates in training programs.
- Encourages and understanding of, and sensitivity to, multicultural values and traditions.
- Participates in professional social work organizations.

What are the Special Projects in which the School Social Worker is involved?

- Student Attendance Achievement Review Team (SAART)
- Student Study Teams/Response to Intervention/Coordination of Services Team
- Counseling Services
- Crisis Intervention Team
- Services for Homeless students and families
- Services for Foster Youth
- Partnerships with community agencies
- Liaison to child welfare services programs
- Internship programs for social work students