

School Social Workers **A**dvocate for their clients. They **B**uild bridges through a deep **C**aring while recognizing the **D**ignity and worth of each individual. School Social Workers hold true to their **E**thics and serve their clients through **F**amily support, **G**roup work, and **H**elping Individual clients. They strive for social **J**ustice by fighting for the equity of all students. School social workers **K**ee students safe while being a **L**eaders on their campuses. School social workers are **M**ental health professionals who uphold the **N**ASW Code of Ethics. They use **O**ngoing data-informed decisions and seek out **P**rofessional development to ensure they uphold high **Q**ualifications. Ideally, school social workers hold a **R**atio of 1:250 general education students so they can effectively teach **S**ocial-emotional skills and remain an integral part of their school's **T**eam. Above all, school social workers treat all individuals with **U**nconditional positive regard while **V**aluing and respecting the dignity and **W**orth of every person. This is what it is to be a school social worker. This list is **eX**tensive, **Y**et, we could go on! No school should go with **Z**ero social workers.



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by the  
**School Social Work  
Association of America**  
sswaa.org

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\*Staple your business card here\*  
OR  
\*Paste address label with your info\*

What is a  
School Social  
Worker?

## SERVICES TO STUDENTS:

- Providing crisis intervention.
- Developing intervention strategies to increase academic success.
- Assisting with conflict resolution and anger management.
- Helping the child develop appropriate social interaction skills.
- Assisting the child in understanding and accepting self and others.

## SERVICES TO PARENTS/FAMILIES:

- Interviewing the family to assess problems affecting the child's educational adjustment.
- Working with parents to facilitate their support in their children's school adjustment.
- Alleviating family stress to enable the child to function more effectively in school & community.
- Assisting parents to access programs available to students with special needs.
- Assisting parents in accessing and utilizing school and community resources

## SERVICES TO DISTRICTS:

- Assist in developing and implementing educational programs for children for exceptional children
- Developing alternative programs for drop-outs, truants, delinquents, etc.
- Identifying and reporting child abuse and neglect.
- Providing consultation regarding school law and school policy including IDEA and Section 504.
- Providing case management for students and families requiring multiple resources.

School Social Workers are trained mental health professionals with a degree in social work who provide services related to a person's social, emotional and life adjustment to school and/or society. School Social Workers are the link between the home, school and community in providing direct as well as indirect services to students, families and school personnel to promote and support students' academic and social success.

## SERVICES TO SCHOOL PERSONNEL:

- Providing staff with essential information to better understand factors (cultural, societal, economic, familial, health, etc.) affecting a student's performance and behavior.
- Assessing students with mental health concerns.
- Developing staff in-service training programs.
- Assisting teachers with behavior management.
- Providing direct support to staff.

## SCHOOL-COMMUNITY LIAISON:

- Obtaining and coordinating community resources to meet students' needs.
- Helping school districts receive adequate support from social and mental health agencies.
- Advocating for new and improved community/school service to meet the needs of students and families.
- Helping the system respond effectively to each child's needs.

## RELATED SERVICES:

- Participating in special education assessment meetings as well as Individual Educational Planning meetings.
- Working with those problems in a child's living situation that affect the child's adjustment in school. (home, school, and community)
- Preparing a social or developmental history on a child with a disability.
- Counseling (group, individual and/or family)
- Mobilizing family, school, and community resources to enable the child to learn as effectively as possible in his or her educational program

**SCHOOL SOCIAL WORK  
SERVICES**

# HOW TO USE THIS BROCHURE

School Social Work roles are often underfunded, overworked, and misunderstood. The School Social Work Association of America has created this brochure to work for you! It is critical we advocate for our own roles in schools, and ensure everyone from our students, parents, staff, and district board understand the importance of social workers in schools and the vital role they play in the mental health of students across America. Below is a list of ideas for this brochure, but the options are only limited to your imagination.

- Staple your business card or print labels with your contact info and attach to each brochure
- Hand out to families at Open House / Meet the Teacher / or any community engagement event
- Give to families either at IEP meetings or along with your Permission Forms
- Speak to your School Board at a public meeting and use the brochure for support
- Mail brochures to your local legislators and Department of Education along with a personal letter
- Provide brochures to your staff at the beginning of each year to educate on your roll
- Use a brochure in meeting with your supervisor to advocate for more funding, school social workers, or pay increase

To Print: select double-sided, pages 1-2 under your print options.

SSWAA wants to work for YOU! If you have ideas, questions or concerns, please contact us at [contactus@sswaa.org](mailto:contactus@sswaa.org).

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[www.sswaa.org](http://www.sswaa.org)