

School Social Workers: Integral Team Members in the School Community

Date _____

Name _____

Address _____

Dear _____

Are you looking for a key partner in your building who can help you address the challenges you face in meeting the needs of students and their families? If so, look no further than your school social worker. The School Social Work Association of America (SSWAA) and the National Association of Social Work (NASW) are collaborating on a national campaign to raise awareness about what school social workers contribute to the academic success of students.

School social workers are an invaluable link between the student, family, school and community. We are “trained mental health professionals who are prepared to recognize and respond to student mental health crises and needs as well as provide support to administration and staff when school crises occur,” according to NASW.

Although our primary customer is the student, we also work to help link students and their families to school and community resources in order to promote student success. School social workers are licensed and/or certified mental health professionals who work in conjunction with the school counselor and the school psychologist to help eliminate barriers that prevent a student from being academically successful.

The role of the school social worker on this team is unique, however, and should never be confused with the roles of the other professionals because of the specialized skills that we bring to the team including but not limited to:

- Resource linkage and development
- Preparation of specialized student reports such as the bio-psychosocial assessment, a document unique to the social work profession
- Expert guidance in the area of Social Emotional Learning (SEL)
- Truancy prevention and intervention services
- Individual counseling and crisis intervention
- Home visits to speak with family members to address student concerns
- Group therapy
- Expert training and guidance in the area of cultural competency and cultural awareness

In our work, school social workers interact with the most vulnerable populations in school environments. These students include but are not limited to those who are more likely to be

truant from school because of the challenging circumstances they face in their everyday lives. These may include youth who are homeless, LGBTQ, or undocumented immigrants.

I would love to speak with you more about some of the services that I can provide to your school as a school social worker. If you have any questions or would like to learn more about my role in your school and how I can better assist students in your school, please contact me at

_____.

Professional regards,

Name, credentials, title

School Social Workers are “trained mental health professionals who are prepared to recognize and respond to student mental health crises and needs as well as provide support to administration and staff when school crises occur.” -- (NASW, 2013)

For more information log into <https://www.socialworkers.org/>

“School Social Workers are licensed and/or certified mental health providers serving diverse groups of students, families, schools, and communities. School Social Workers provide evidence-based behavioral, social emotional, and mental health services. School Social Workers promote a safe and equitable school climate and culture supporting positive academic and behavioral outcomes. School Social Workers collaborate with school and community resources empowering students to reach their full potential.”-- School Social Work Association of America, 2019

For more information log into <http://sswaa.org>