

What is a School Social Worker?

School Social Workers identify factors that can make school a more successful experience for students.

School Social Workers are trained mental health professionals with graduate level training 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 a vital part of the student services and special education teams. Their unique training enables them to understand and interpret the influences of home, school, and environmental circumstances on a student's academic and social success.

What do School Social Workers do?

School Social Workers help STUDENTS:

- Achieve maximum benefit from their educational opportunities
- Understand themselves and others by developing self-awareness, social awareness and relationship skills
- Develop coping strategies to deal with immediate and/or lifelong stresses
- Develop conflict resolution and behavioral intervention strategies
- Develop effective decision making skills

School Social Workers help PARENTS/FAMILIES:

- Participate effectively in their child's education
- Understand and meet their child's social and emotional needs
- Understand programs and services available to students with special needs
- Utilize school and community resources effectively

School Social Workers help SCHOOLS/STAFF:

- Understand factors (environmental, societal, economic, cultural, familial, health, etc.) that affect students' abilities to make maximum use of their school experience
- Utilize their resources in meeting the educational, social, and emotional needs of students
- Assesses students with mental health concerns
- Promote a safe and supportive classroom environment
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School Social Workers help COMMUNITIES:

- Understand school policies, programs, and practices
- Minimize those environmental factors which inhibit learning
- Develop resources and partnerships to adequately meet the needs of students and families