

MOUNTAIN HIGH SCHOOL SOCIAL WORK SERVICES

Mountain High's social work team provides a variety of clinical services and wrap-around supports for students, families, school/district personnel, and community partners. School social workers maintain professional educator licenses through USBE. They also maintain clinical licenses through DOPL as mental health professionals who are qualified to provide psychoeducation and diagnose and treat mental illness. Below are reasons why a student may be referred to a social worker:

- Inability to regulate emotion (depression, anxiety, panic attack, lack of impulse control, etc.)
- Evidence of self-harm
- Suicidal ideation
- Personal or family crisis
- Bullying
- Behavioral issues
- Unexplained changes in attendance
- Changes in sleep patterns and/or appetite
- Concerning sexual behaviors
- Difficulty with social/romantic relationships
- Social isolation
- Suspected abuse/neglect
- Suspected drug or alcohol use/abuse
- Teen pregnancy
- Runaway, emancipation, or related concerns
- Medical/disability support (severe acute illness, chronic illness, injury, etc.)
- Law enforcement involvement
- Need for parental education/support
- Domestic violence
- Homelessness
- Family Challenges
 - Divorce, remarriage, stepfamily challenges
 - Relocation
 - Deployment of a family member
 - Illness/injury of a family member
 - Death of a family member
 - Incarceration of a family member
- Personal/Family Financial needs
 - Food
 - Clothing
 - Shelter
 - Insurance
 - Utilities
 - School supplies

DIRECT SERVICES TO STUDENTS:

- Working to mitigate problems in students' living situations that affect their adjustment in home, school, and community.
- Mobilizing family, school, and community resources to enable students to learn as effectively as possible in their educational programs.
- Facilitating psychoeducational classes and groups (i.e. mindfulness, substance abuse prevention, suicide prevention, social skills training and other forms of social/emotional learning).
- Developing intervention strategies to facilitate positive behavior and increase academic success.
- Advocating for students.
- Providing crisis intervention.
- Providing clinical mental health services for individuals, groups, and/or families (including intake, diagnosis, treatment planning, therapeutic intervention, evaluation, and discharge).
- Managing case records.
- Identifying and reporting child abuse and neglect.
- Assisting with conflict resolution and anger management.
- Assisting with substance abuse testing and related interventions.

- Helping students develop appropriate social interaction skills.
- Assisting students in understanding and accepting themselves and others.
- Preparing a social or developmental history on students with disabilities.
- Participating in special education assessment meetings as well as Individual Educational Planning and 504 plan development meetings.

SERVICES TO PARENTS/FAMILIES:

- Working with parents to facilitate their support in their students' school adjustment.
- Working with families to alleviate family stress, thereby enabling students to function more effectively in school and in their communities.
- Assisting parents in accessing programs available to students with special needs.
- Assisting parents in accessing and utilizing school and community resources.

SERVICES TO SCHOOL PERSONNEL:

- Providing staff with essential information to better understand factors (cultural, societal, economic, familial, health, etc.) affecting students' performance and behavior.
- Assessing students with mental health concerns.
- Developing and implementing staff in-service training programs.
- Assisting administration in forming school discipline policies.
- Assisting teachers with behavior management.
- Assisting school resource officers with student interventions.
- Providing direct mental health support to staff.

SERVICES AS SCHOOL-COMMUNITY LIAISONS:

- 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.
- Facilitating community involvement in schools.
- Helping cross-sector systems respond effectively to each student's needs.

SERVICES TO DISTRICTS:

- Assisting in developing and implementing educational programs for students with exceptional needs or circumstances.
- Developing alternative programs for dropouts, truants, delinquents, etc.
- Providing consultation regarding school law and school policy including IDEA and Section 504.
- Providing case management for students and families requiring multiple resources.
- Developing curriculum for social/emotional learning.

ADDITIONAL SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES:

- Serving on school and community boards/committees.
- Participating in school/community activities.
- Giving school and/or community presentations addressing various elements of social work practice.
- Petitioning lawmakers to advocate for school-based mental health services.