

Responsibilities of School Social Workers

Role of the Social Worker:

- Provide crisis intervention, counseling services, support, and case management.
- Build trusting relationships with students, families, and school personnel.
- Maintain the confidentiality of student and family.
- If home visits are deemed necessary to understand and address barriers to learning, principal should discuss this with the Director of Counseling.
- Link students and families with school and community resources.
- Encourage families to effectively participate in their child's education.
- Collaborate with all school personnel to assess students' social/emotional obstacles to academic success.
- Gather information from family.
- Help families understand school policies, services, and programs.
- Assist teachers and administrators in developing plans to help students with academic and behavior problems.
- Follow-up on student issues referred by parents, teachers, staff.
- Develop/facilitate/coordinate prevention activities and intervention strategies.

Issues that May Prompt a School Social Work Referral:

- Mental health issues
- Abuse or neglect
- Lack of basic needs/homelessness
- Pregnancy/ teen parent needs
- Change in academic performance
- Chronic attendance or tardiness issues
- Gang affiliations
- Coping or social skills deficits
- Facilitation of school-home-community communication
- Student advocacy
- Referral, monitoring, collaboration to and with community agencies
- Staff support and/or development
- Substance Abuse

When should I refer a student to the school social worker?

A student should be referred to the school social worker when the student shows signs of social and/or emotional difficulties which are interfering with the student's success at school.

How do I make a referral?

Parents can contact the school social worker directly and complete a social work referral form.

Teachers can contact the school social worker and complete a social work referral form.

Students can self-refer by talking to a teacher/staff or directly to the school social worker.

Individual Skill Building	Based upon referrals from teachers and parents, I can provide one-on-one time with students who may be going through a difficult time emotionally, displaying behavioral problems, or simply needing someone to talk to.
Character Education	Each classroom may receive sessions of Character Education lessons as needed. Lessons cover a wide range of age-specific areas including friendship, respect, and bullying.
Groups	This includes working with a group of students on various topics such as handling emotions, anger management, self-esteem, social skills, academic skills, etc..
Truancy	We work with students and families with truancy concerns.
Crisis Management	I am available to help individuals and families in crisis events.
Parenting	We will run Parenting classes as requested as well as offer parenting resources as needed.
Referrals	I am available to connect parents and students to resources at school and in the community.
TAT Teams	A part of my position is working with students on IEPs as well as coordinating services with other team members.

Anti-Bullying	I am working in the school to provide preventative methods against bullying. I am available to provide resources to parents and teachers as well as talk to students individually or in groups about bullying.
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These are a few examples of how social work can improve the environment to improve a student's learning outcomes.