

# WHO ARE SCHOOL SOCIAL WORKERS

SSWs provide a focused reach to support all students specifically in areas of social-emotional learning and mental health needs, and are uniquely trained to integrate the school, community, and family context into interventions and resource referrals. School social work interventions reduce barriers to learning enabling students to be physically, mentally, and emotionally present and ready to learn in the classrooms.

## SSW NATIONAL PRACTICE MODEL GUIDING PRINCIPLES

- Provide culturally responsive evidence-based education, behavior and mental health services
- Promote a school climate and culture conducive to student learning & teaching excellence
- Maximize access to school-based and community-based resources

## SOCIAL WORK PRACTICE IN SCHOOLS

ALL school social workers are educated to work towards equity and root their practices in social justice...this means **school social workers are educated to break down opportunity gaps and address systemic inequities, which can be exacerbated by current social and environmental conditions.**

ALL school social workers address barriers to learning honoring an individual's dignity and worth... this means **through relational work school social workers are trained to meet mental health, social, emotional, behavioral, and physical needs to contribute to academic achievement.**

ALL school social workers utilize trauma sensitive healing centered approaches and have specific training about cultural awareness... this means **school social workers are trained to support and apply culturally responsive school practices.**

## DID YOU KNOW?

- 80% of mental health services nationwide are provided by social workers
- School social workers providing clinical services can generate revenue by billing Medicaid for mental health services provided



School Social Work  
Association of America

FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT:

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

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# WHO ARE SCHOOL SOCIAL WORKERS

## SCHOOL SOCIAL WORK IN ACTION

- [Advocating for Use of the Title: “School Social Worker”](#)
- [Recommended SSW to Student Ratio](#)
- [Overlapping & Unique Roles of Specialized Pupil Services Personnel](#)

*Address: Equity · Social Justice · Systemic Inequities*

Psychosocial assessments · Individual counseling · Family support · Functional Behavioral Assessments · Behavioral Intervention Plans · 504 Plan/IEP's · Suicide assessment and reintegration

### SOCIAL WORKERS PRACTICE AT TIER 3

Classroom and small group practices to address SEL · Behavioral and mental health needs · Group counseling and skill building · Attendance · Engagement

### SOCIAL WORKERS PRACTICE AT TIER 2

Needs assessments · School-wide data collection · Collaboration and consultation with teachers and administrators · Crisis intervention and prevention · Provide professional development for all school staff and families · Family engagement activities · Leadership and accountability for systems wide mental health initiatives · Student engagement · Educational policy advocacy · systems of care coordination · McKinney Vento · Foster care · Foster community partnerships

### SOCIAL WORKERS PRACTICE AT TIER 1

*Meet Students Needs: Social · Emotional · Behavioral · Health*

**Using Approaches: Trauma Sensitive Healing Centered · Culturally Responsive**

## FOUNDATIONS OF SCHOOL SOCIAL WORK PRACTICE

[NASW Code of Ethics](#) · [SSWAA National Practice Model](#) · [NASW SSW Practice Standards](#) · [Definition Of a Highly Qualified SSW](#)