



## North Carolina School Social Workers' Association

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

### **WHO** are School Social Workers?

School Social Workers are trained mental health professionals with a degree in social work who provide services related to students' and/or family's social, emotional, and life adjustment to school and/or society. School Social Workers are the link between the home, school and community in providing direct as well as indirect services to students, families, and school personnel to promote and support students' academic and social success.



### **WHY** do today's schools need a School Social Worker?

Children today are increasingly victims of many social forces that negatively affect their role as students. The family is in a state of change and until it becomes stabilized, children's unmet physical and emotional needs will continue to interfere with their ability to learn and, ultimately, graduate from high school. School social workers are uniquely qualified to work with students who are economically disadvantaged, have poor attendance, and have special needs.

### **WHAT** are some of the specific services that School Social Workers provide?

#### **SERVICES TO STUDENTS:**

- Developing intervention strategies to increase academic success and improve graduation rates
- Providing crisis intervention
- Assisting the student in developing appropriate social interaction skills
- Counseling (individual and group)

#### **SERVICES TO SCHOOLS:**

- Providing staff with essential information to better understand factors affecting a student's academic performance and behavior (cultural, societal, economic, familial, mental health)
- Participation in special education assessments by completing social-developmental histories and parent interviews
- Developing and providing staff development programs
- Assisting teachers with behavior management
- Providing consultation regarding school laws and policies related to compulsory attendance, IDEA, child abuse and neglect, and homeless education

#### **SERVICES TO FAMILIES:**

- Conducting home visits and interviewing families to assess problems affecting the child's educational progress
- Working with parents to facilitate their support in their child's educational experience and/or adjustment to school
- Alleviating family stress (domestic violence, financial strain, etc.) to enable the child to function more effectively in school and the community
- Assisting parents in accessing programs available to students with special needs
- Assisting parents in accessing and utilizing school and community resources

#### **SCHOOL-COMMUNITY LIAISON**

- Coordination, facilitation, & participation in Child and Family Team Meetings
- Mobilizing community resources to meet students' needs
- Helping the school system receive adequate support from social and mental health agencies
- Advocating for new and improved community/school resources to meet the needs of students and families
- Participation on community councils & interagency teams as a representative of the LEA

*Adapted from ABSS School Social Work Program  
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