

SCHOOL SOCIAL WORKER

POSITION: School Social Worker

REPORTS TO: Principal

PURPOSE: The School Social Worker promotes and enhances the overall academic mission by providing services that strengthen home, school, and community partnerships and address barriers to learning and achievement. The School Social Worker significantly contributes to the development of a healthy, safe, and caring environment. Such an environment is achieved by advancing the understanding of the emotional and social development of children and the influences of family, community, and cultural differences on student success along with the implementation of effective intervention strategies.

DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

The School Social Worker's principle task is to empower students, families, and school personnel to access available opportunities and resources that develop each student's potential. Integrated into all major functions are home, school, community assimilation; diversity and cultural competence; dropout prevention; graduation awareness; and adherence to federal and state statutes, professional development and practices, School Social Work Standards and the National Association of Social Workers Code of Ethics.

QUALIFICATIONS:

- Master's Degree in Social Work
- LCSW license required
- Previous experience in a School setting
- Demonstrates excellent written and interpersonal communications skills
- Compassionate and approachable personality
- Strong sense of discretion and professionalism
- Demonstrates technology proficiency including but not limited to Microsoft applications
- Possess the ability to work independently and manage time effectively
- A proven track record of mediation

1. MAJOR FUNCTION: Assessment of Student, Family, and School Needs

Effectively and appropriately assesses and addresses the needs, characteristics, and interactions of students, families, school personnel, and community.

- Conducts assessments and evaluations in accordance with family and student rights.
- Uses evaluation results to develop appropriate interventions for students, families, schools, and communities.
- Develops intervention plans consistent with students' needs, strengths, diversity and life experiences; and social and emotional factors.
- Uses a variety of appropriate formal and informal tools and techniques including observations and interviews to evaluate the progress and performance of students and families.
- Addresses the needs of the school, student, families, and community by collaborating with the aforementioned

2. MAJOR FUNCTION: Direct Services/Service Delivery

Uses knowledge and understanding of the reciprocal influences of home, school, and community to intervene for student success via such practices as assessment, crisis intervention and response, home visits, conflict resolution, individual and group counseling, consultation, program development, dropout prevention, graduation awareness, and coordination of school and community services.

- Promotes family support of students' learning experience within the context of multicultural understanding and competencies.
- Provides services to students in ways that build upon individual strengths and offers students maximum opportunities to participate in the planning and direction of their own learning experience.
- Develops and provides training and educational programs that address the goals and mission of the educational institution.

3. MAJOR FUNCTION: Advocacy

Advocates for appropriate services for students and their families.

- Advocates and facilitates change that effectively responds to the needs of students, families, and school systems using appropriate statutes, case law, policies, and procedures.
- Promotes services to students and their families within the context of multicultural understanding and competence that enhances families' support of students learning experiences.
- Assists students and their families in gaining access to formal and informal community resources.
- Utilizes research and technologies to assist students, families, schools, and communities.

4. MAJOR FUNCTION: Consultation and Collaboration

Consults and collaborates with stakeholders on behalf of students and their families.

- Consults with stakeholders to facilitate an understanding of factors in the home, local education agency, and community that affect students' educational experiences.
- Consults on such issues as attendance, diversity, mental health, behavior management, delinquency, crisis intervention, homelessness, child abuse, neglect, and the importance of confidentiality.
- Initiates and supports activities to overcome institutional barriers and gaps in services as leaders and members of interdisciplinary teams with the unique contribution of bringing the home, school, and community perspective to the interdisciplinary process.
- Works with internal and external individuals, groups, and organizations to develop programs or systems of care that support and enhance the health, social and emotional well-being, and safety of students.
- Promotes collaboration among community health and mental health service providers and facilitates student access to these services.
- Uses extensive knowledge of community resources, enabling the school social worker to play a critical role in facilitating the provision of community services in the local education agency.

- Helps to build effective school-community teams and orients community providers to school climate, culture, structure, and to the laws and regulations governing practice in educational settings.

5. MAJOR FUNCTION: Program Planning, Implementation, and Evaluation

Effectively plans, implements, and evaluates programs that promote student and family success.

- Applies knowledge of environmental factors in planning programs.
- Plans school and/or system-wide programs to promote a safe, healthy, caring school climate that fosters academic success.
- Assists the school and community in planning programs that alleviate situations that may interfere with the learning process of students.
- Assists in the evaluation of effective departmental, school-based, system, community, and statewide programs.

6. MAJOR FUNCTION: Accountability

Advocates, facilitates, and contributes to School Social Worker accountability for outcomes aligned with local, state, and federal policies and guidelines.

- Conforms to the National Association of Social Work (NASW) Code of Ethics and Standards for School Social Work practice.
- Maintains accurate case records and documentation.
- Maintains current knowledge of federal and state laws and regulations and abides by said laws and regulations with emphasis on persons with disabilities, child welfare, mental health, confidentiality, and student and parent rights.
- Organizes time, resources, energy, and workload in order to meet responsibilities.
- Evaluates own practice and disseminates the findings to consumers, school districts, the community, and the profession in order to maximize the effectiveness of services and resources provided to students.
- Participates in appropriate professional development activities to improve knowledge and skills.