An association of School Social Workers throughout Minnesota who work with students and families to provide mental health related services and support in the school system.

- MSSWA has been serving children through their school, home, and community for over 40 years.
- MSSWA is a politically responsive, statewide organization committed to the improvement of the school social work profession and to the well being of children and their families.
- To speak with a MSSWA member in your region visit www.msswa.org
**SCHOOL SOCIAL WORKERS ARE THE LINK BETWEEN HOME, SCHOOL AND COMMUNITY.**

As members of the educational team, School Social Workers promote and support students' academic and social success by providing specialized services that may include:

- Assessment of student needs through observation, interviews and testing.
- Treatment of mental and emotional disorders.
- Individual and group therapeutic services.
- Crisis prevention and intervention.
- Working with students in both general education and special education settings.
- Advocacy for students, parents, and the school district.
- Education and training for parents and guardians.
- Information and referral.
- Professional case management.
- Collaboration and consultation with community agencies, organizations, and other professionals.
- Staff and policy development.

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**SCHOOL SOCIAL WORKERS HELP STUDENTS TO:**

- Increase academic success.
- Improve interpersonal relationships.
- Cope with difficult and crisis situations.
- Develop self-esteem and self-discipline.
- Learn problem-solving, conflict resolution and decision-making skills.
- Remove barriers to academic success.

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**SCHOOL SOCIAL WORKERS HELP EDUCATORS BY:**

- Developing and implementing plans to enhance students’ school success.
- Providing ongoing emotional and behavioral support to students.
- Communicating information about how factors such as family, culture, socioeconomic status, physical and mental health can affect students’ performance.
- Identifying and reporting child abuse and neglect situations.
- Coordinating community resources to meet students’ needs.
- Identifying and eliminating barriers to educational success.

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**SCHOOL SOCIAL WORKERS’ ROLE IN SPECIAL EDUCATION IS TO:**

- Consult with mainstream and special education teachers to develop and implement pre-referral interventions.
- Design and implement behavior management plans.
- Participate on the child study team.
- Provide social, emotional, behavioral, functional and adaptive assessments.
- Educate parents and school personnel regarding the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA).

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**SCHOOL SOCIAL WORKERS PROVIDE SERVICES THAT ARE EFFICIENT AND EFFECTIVE EDUCATIONAL INVESTMENTS.**

**SCHOOL SOCIAL WORKERS:**

- Are licensed mental health practitioners and professionals.
- Develop intervention strategies that prevent school violence.
- Coordinate service delivery for students through cooperative interagency activity.
- Mediate disputes between students, parents, and school systems.

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Learn more: www.MSSWA.ORG