

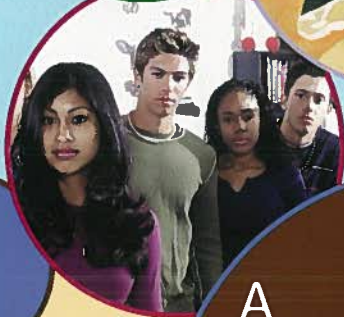
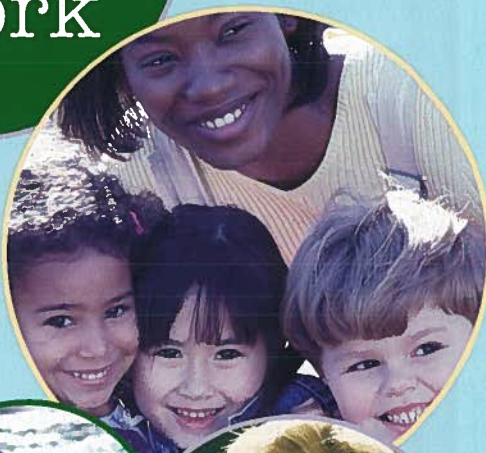
SSWAA

The **School Social Work Association of America** is the only national organization dedicated exclusively to school social work. SSWAA serves as the clearinghouse for school social work information and resources and offers a national conference each spring. SSWAA publishes a monthly newsletter and a weekly electronic newsletter filled with information and resources for the school social work practitioner, educator, and student. Membership is available directly from SSWAA and available at a discount from many state school social work associations. Special rates are offered to students and retired school social workers.

SSWAA maintains the following information links at www.sswaa.org:

- State School Social Work Associations
- State Departments of Education
- University/College Information for Training Certification Information (by state)
- Resources for School Social Workers (books and journals)

School Social Work



A Life Changing Career

Who are School Social Workers?

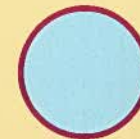
School Social Workers are trained mental health professionals with a masters degree in social work who provide services related to a student's social and emotional adjustment to school, family, community and society. School Social Workers are the link between the home, school and community providing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

Why do today's schools need School Social Workers?

Children today are increasingly impacted by social forces that negatively affect their role as students. This negative effect results in unmet physical and emotional needs that interfere with their ability to learn and succeed in school.

Role & Function

School Social Workers provide services unique to the school setting. School Social Workers are involved in providing services to all students. Services can include working with the individual student or family and working with students in groups and classrooms. Other services include crisis intervention, consultation with school personnel, and finding community resources for students and families. School Social Workers are part of the assessment team for at-risk and special education students and help students and families with transitions.



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What are some of the specific services School Social Workers provide?

Services to Students

- Developing intervention strategies to increase academic success for at-risk students.
- Providing crisis intervention.
- Assisting with conflict resolution and anger management.
- Helping at-risk students develop appropriate social interaction skills.
- Assisting the at-risk student in understanding and accepting self and others.

Services to School Personnel

- Identifying factors in the child's home, school and community environments that may be a barrier to learning.
- Helping teachers to strategize behavior management interventions and/or develop individual behavioral plans for at-risk students.
- Working collaboratively with, as well as providing direct support to staff.

Services to Parents/Families

- Assessing problems affecting the student's educational adjustment.
- Assisting the utilization of community resources to strengthen the family and the student.
- Helping parents/families to enhance their student's school experience.
- Securing access to programs available to students with special needs.

Trends

School social work is currently growing in many states. Funding for school social work positions can be tied to federal dollars and federal mandates. Any changes at the federal level or state level could affect school social work positions. Within states, the level of services provided from school to school varies.

Certification and Regulation

Each state department of education and/or state social work regulatory board determines the regulation of school social work. SSWAA maintains a directory of state information. Many states have reciprocal agreements regarding the transfer of certification from one state to another.



Educational Requirements

The majority of school social workers hold a master's degree in Social Work which is the recommended entry level.

Salary

Salary depends upon many factors including the state and local standards, educational level, and years of experience. Many school social workers are employed for the traditional school year, while others are employed for additional time.



School-Community Liaison

- Obtaining and coordinating community resources to meet students' needs.
- Facilitating collaborative programs with social and mental health agencies.
- Advocating for new and improved community/school services to meet the needs of students and families.
- Helping the system respond effectively to each child's needs.

Related Services under IDEA

- Participating in special education assessment and Individual Educational Planning meetings.
- Identifying factors in a child's living situation which impinge upon his/her education.
- Mobilizing family, school, and community resources to enable the child to learn as effectively as possible.
- Completing social developmental assessments to determine factors which may affect a child's ability to learn.
 - Counseling (small group, individual and/or family).
 - Assisting in developing positive behavioral intervention strategies.

