

Most school social workers are employed by the school system and therefore are an integral part of the policy and procedures that guide the system. Many school social workers have a master of social work degree and often are both credentialed by the state as a social worker and hold a license/certificate in the area of school social work through their state's department of education.

School social workers maintain confidentiality and therefore build trusting relationships with students, families, teachers, administrators, and other school personnel to work toward the academic success of the student. The extent of involvement by a school social worker can vary from one consultation, or a few sessions, to ongoing services.

This brochure has been designed to help families and school personnel better understand the role of school social workers in positive school-home communication.

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**A
Collaborative Effort
for
Student Success!**

Positive School-Home Communication

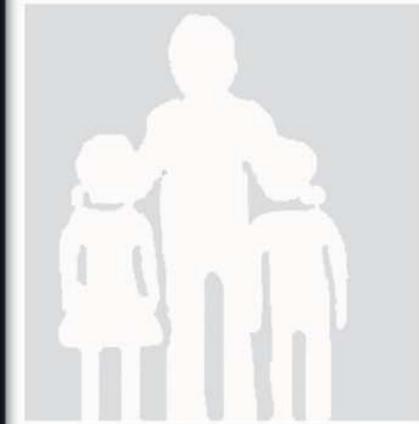
STUDENT SUCCESS

*is heightened when families, teachers, and school social workers work collaboratively to provide **positive school-home communication**. This goal is achieved within the context of the family, teachers, and school social workers roles as follows:*



ROLE OF THE SCHOOL SOCIAL WORKER

- Build trusting relationships.
- Maintain the **confidentiality** of student and family.
- Provide case management and counseling services.
- Encourage familial involvement.
- Collaborate with all school personnel.
- Assess social/emotional obstacles to academic success.
- Mediate disagreements.
- Explain school policies to families—in detail.
- Follow-up on student issues referred by teacher or administrator.
- Gather information from family.
- Assist teachers and principals in developing plans.
- Conduct functional behavioral assessments.
- Facilitate and coordinate prevention activities and intervention strategies.
- Work with family as a part of the larger community.



ROLE OF THE TEACHER

- Instruct in the core curriculum.
- **Nurture student's confidence in own academic abilities.**
- **Assess student academic performance and learning needs.**
- Develop and share behavior and classroom management plans.
- Provide academic/behavior feedback with families.
- Explain school policies related to the classroom.
- **Consult with school social worker.**
- Refer student to school social worker when issues persist.
- **Collaborate with all school personnel.**

STUDENT SUCCESS

ROLE OF THE FAMILY

- Talk daily with your child and listen without judging.
- See and model your child as the success you want them to be.
- Take an active role in your child's daily homework assignments.
- Provide positive feedback to your child about accomplishments.
- Meet and maintain contact with your child's teacher(s), principal, and staff.
- Ask questions.
- Consult with the school social worker and other professionals.
- Attend school meetings, events, and family/teacher conferences.
- Volunteer at your child's school.
- Learn and exercise familial rights and responsibilities.
- Know and utilize school and community resources.

