

## Mission Statement

School Social Workers are committed to supporting the instructional program in Atlanta Public Schools through a delivery of services for students experiencing social, emotional, and adaptive difficulties. Our mission is to provide social work services, in collaboration with school and community resources, that enable students to attain school system-wide goals and objectives while progressing toward their maximum potential.



There are currently 40 School Social Workers employed in Atlanta Public Schools. Every elementary, middle, and high school has an assigned social worker. Students may be referred to school social workers through community agencies, teachers, parents, students, administration and other school personnel.

### SOCIAL WORK SERVICES INFORMATION:

*National Association of Social Workers (NASW)*  
[www.naswdc.org/](http://www.naswdc.org/)

*School Social Work Association of America (SSWAA)*  
[www.sswaa.org/](http://www.sswaa.org/)

*School Social Workers Association of Georgia (SSWAG)*  
[www.sswag.org/](http://www.sswag.org/)

*American Council for School Social Work (ACSSW)*  
[www.acssw.org/](http://www.acssw.org/)

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## OFFICE OF STUDENT SERVICES



## Social Work Services

**Removing Barriers to Student Education**

## School Social Work

School social workers serve as a link between the home, school, and community to ensure that students remain in school and graduate, reach their fullest academic potential, and grow socially and emotionally. School social workers have expertise in many areas such as: human growth and development, mental health, effects of family and environmental dynamics on the student, and child abuse and neglect. Using a strengths perspective as a framework for practice, school social workers provide brief assessments and develop strategies/interventions that help to increase student performance, school completion, and support college and career readiness.



Atlanta Public Schools requires the school social worker to possess a Master of Social Work (MSW) degree from a Council on Social Work Education (CSWE) accredited program. The school social worker must also possess a minimum of a (S-5) Clear Renewable Certificate from the Georgia Professional Standards Commission. Although licensure is not required, there are several social workers on staff who are Licensed as Clinical Social Workers (LCSW) or Master Social Workers (LMSW).

## School Social Workers: Linking Homes, Schools & Communities

School social workers support students' thriving in schools by removing barriers that hinder student performance. They are professionally trained to provide services to students who face serious challenges to school success such as: mental health and behavior difficulties, school adjustment issues, access to basic necessities, discrimination, abuse, addiction, bullying, divorce of parents, and loss of a loved one. Services provided to assist students reach their fullest academic potential include but are not limited to:

### Support in Schools:

- \* Promote a positive and safe school environment through crisis intervention services that support school staff and students
- \* Foster understanding of how the broad range of experiences such as family dynamics, socioeconomic status, and culture, can shape students' approach to learning
- \* Participate in and provide input on multi-disciplinary teams, including Response to Intervention (RTI) and Student Support Team (SST)
- \* Provide training to increase understanding of school laws and policies that impact teaching and learning in schools



### Support in Communities:

- \* Promote understanding of school policies, programs, and practices to facilitate collaboration and partnerships with businesses, community agencies, and schools
- \* Wraparound planning in partnership with schools and community agencies to reduce or eliminate barriers to student success
- \* Identify and mobilize resources that adequately meet the needs of students and families in partnership with businesses and community agencies
- \* Identify protective factors within the community to assist with fostering resiliency within students and families

### Support for Homes:

- \* Implement strategies and interventions for social-emotional and attendance concerns to assist students with meeting educational goals and outcomes
- \* Coordinate the delivery of child-welfare, medical, and mental health services
- \* Provide resources and referrals to families in need of economic aid
- \* Help parents identify stressors that interfere with their child's school performance and access programs that support student success