**The Indiana Student Services Coalition**

The Indiana Student Services Coalition is a coalition of statewide professional student services organizations and youth advocates. The Indiana Student Services Coalition seeks to promote all P-12 students’ access to academic and behavioral supports by:

* Encouraging multidisciplinary collaboration
* Promoting the health and well-being of the whole child
* Affirming best practices, and
* Promoting access to licensed, credentialed, and qualified student service professionals.

Indiana student services professionals, including school nurses, school counselors, school social workers, and school psychologists, provide school-based prevention and intervention services to address barriers to educational success, ensure positive conditions for learning, and help all students achieve academically and ultimately become productive citizens. Student service professionals work with teachers, administrators, parents and community partners to ensure that all students have access to quality academic supports and school-based behavioral health care. Each of these professions helps to create school environments that are safe, supportive, and conducive to learning.

**Each profession may deliver similar services such as counseling, social– emotional skill instruction, and consultation with families and teachers; however, each profession has its own unique focus based upon its specialization, which results in different, albeit interrelated, services.**

**The specific services and expertise of individual practitioners may vary, but the following describes the core competencies and specialized instructional services of each profession.**

**School Nurse Services**

Registered nurses are dedicated to improving the health and educational success of children and youth. School nurses are responsible for providing health services to students and staff. Specifically, a school nurse provides illness and injury assessments and interventions, manages the care of students with chronic diseases, performs nursing procedures such as gastrostomy tube feedings and tracheotomy care, creates individualized nursing care plans and provides services for student with disabilities and/or health conditions that interfere with learning, performs health assessments for IEP development, conducts screenings for health factors impacting student education, performs assessments and interventions for students with mental health needs, participates as a member of the crisis team, assists with the development and delivery of health curriculum topics, develops health policy and serves as a school/community/health care provider liaison. Additionally, the school nurse often serves as the coordinator of other health related services in the school setting such as staff wellness, nutrition issues, health counseling, health prevention activities and healthy environments. ([www.inasn.org](http://www.inasn.org))

**School Counselors**

School counselors are certified/licensed educators with a minimum of a master’s degree in school counseling. School counselors are generally the first school-employed mental health professional to interact with students as they commonly are involved in the provision of universal learning supports to the whole school population. School counselors have specialized knowledge of curriculum and instruction and help screen students for the basic skills needed for successful transition from cradle to college and career. School counselors focus on helping students’ address their academic, personal/social, and career development goals and needs by designing, implementing, and evaluating a comprehensive school counseling program that promotes and enhances student success. School counselors work to promote safe learning environments for all members of the school community and regularly monitor and respond to behavior issues that impact school climate, such as bullying, student interpersonal struggles, and student–teacher conflicts. Effective school counseling programs are a collaborative effort between the school counselor, teachers, families, and other educators to create an environment promoting student achievement, active engagement, equitable access to educational opportunities, and a rigorous curriculum for all students. ([www.indianaschoolcounselor.org](http://www.indianaschoolcounselor.org))

**School Social Workers**

School social workers are certified educators/licensed mental health professionals who hold a minimum of a master’s degree in social work with a specialization in school social work practice. They have special expertise in understanding family and community systems and linking students and their families with the community services that are essential for promoting student success. School social workers’ training includes specialized preparation in trauma, cultural diversity, systems theory, social justice, risk assessment and intervention, consultation and collaboration, and clinical intervention strategies to address the mental health needs of students. They work to remedy barriers to learning created as a result of poverty, inadequate health care, and neighborhood violence. School social workers often focus on providing supports to vulnerable populations of students that have a high risk for truancy and dropping out of school, such as homeless and foster children, migrant populations, students transitioning between school and treatment programs or the juvenile justice system, or students experiencing domestic violence. They work closely with teachers, administrators, parents, and other educators to provide coordinated interventions and consultation designed to keep students in school and to help their families access the supports needed to promote student success. ([www.insswa.org](http://www.insswa.org))

**School Psychologists**

School psychologists have minimum of a specialist-level degree in school psychology, which combines the disciplines of psychology and education. They typically have extensive knowledge of learning, motivation, behavior, childhood disabilities, assessment, evaluation, and school law. School psychologists specialize in analyzing complex student and school problems and selecting and implementing appropriate evidence-based interventions to improve outcomes at home and school. School psychologists consult with teachers and parents to provide coordinated services and supports for students struggling with learning disabilities, emotional and behavioral problems, and those experiencing anxiety, depression, emotional trauma, grief, and loss. They are regular members of school crisis teams and collaborate with school administrators and other educators to prevent and respond to crises. They have specialized training in conducting risk and threat assessments designed to identify students at-risk for harming themselves or others. School psychologists’ training in evaluation, data collection, and interpretation can help ensure that decisions made about students, the school system, and related programs and learning supports are based on appropriate evidence. ([www.iasponline.org](http://www.iasponline.org))

**For more information about the Indiana Student Services Coalition, contact**

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