



INSSWA

INDIANA SCHOOL SOCIAL WORK ASSOCIATION

As the Indiana School Social Work Association (INSSWA) we want to thank you for including School Social Workers in your schools. As you know, School Social Workers provide a critical link between school, home, and community. Along with other members of your Student Services Team - School Counselors, School Psychologists, and School Nurses, we work collaboratively to provide essential services in schools. School Social Workers are specialized in the mental health needs of students, as well as seeking equitable education opportunities for all students. As in all aspects of education in the past few years, School Social Work has been affected by changes in education policy, research, and practice models. We would like to provide an update for you on how the profession of School Social Work has responded to these changes. Additionally, we believe all School Social Workers to be paid on the same scale as School Counselors due to our licensure, education, and scope of practice.

School Social Work Standards: As with all educational professionals, School Social Workers are guided by standards and/or competencies in their practice. The National Association of Social Workers and the School Social Work Association of America, has provided these standards for School Social Workers. (NASW 2012 and SSWAA 2014). The entire listing of these standards can be found at www.insswa.org/Resources. We would like to summarize the standards and how they are most impactful for school social workers today.

Qualifications - School Social Workers shall have a Masters in Social Work; a Social Work License from the Indiana Professional Licensing Agency (LSW or LCSW); and a School Social Work license from the Indiana Department of Education (LSSW). Salaries and job classifications of school social workers should be commensurate with their education, experience, and responsibilities; and, be comparable to similarly qualified specialized instructional support personnel (School Counselors and School Psychologists), employed by the school corporation. (NASW 2012)

Ethics and Values - NASW Code of Ethics: school social workers shall demonstrate core values of service, social justice, dignity and worth of the person, importance of human relationships, integrity and competence. School Social Workers will engage in advocacy that seeks to ensure that all students have equal access to education and services to enhance their academic progress. (NASW 2012)

Research Informed Practice - School Social Workers are trained mental health professionals. School Social Workers shall conduct assessments of individuals, families, and systems with the goal of improving student success. They shall use researched based practices in their interventions. School Social Workers will use the Multi-Tier Model to address schoolwide, targeted, and intensive interventions. School Social Workers will participate on educational school teams, analyzing data, and planning interventions to impact school climate, as well as individual student needs.

For more information or questions, you can contact INSSWA at insswapresident@gmail.com.

Thank you,

Indiana School Social Work Association Board