



School Social Work Advocacy Checklist

SCHOOL SOCIAL WORKERS: are **leaders** in their schools in the areas of social emotional learning, mental health, and serving the whole child, family and school community. We are **advocates** for the most vulnerable populations in our communities, always holding them up, serving their needs, and empowering others to do the same. And we are **champions** to all of those we serve, changing lives and providing hope every day!

Advocacy Checklist: What to do to advocate for school social workers in your school corporation:

- Review documents on INSSWA website for advocacy: www.insswa.org School Social Work page and Resources/Link page
- Use talking points and provide graphics when meeting/communication with stakeholders
- Meet with administrators: supervisor, principal, superintendent, department heads, school board members
- Ask to speak at a school board meeting to educate them about school social work services
- Talk about what school social workers do, what specialties we have – mental health, social emotional learning, community organization, special education, student behavior, meeting the need of families, etc. – give stories
- Talk about the education and licenses of a school social worker – MSW, LSW/LCSW, LSSW (IDOE license)
- Take opportunities to talk with administrators (all levels), at special events, meetings – introduce self, thank them for having school social workers in school corp.; ask for a meeting to provide more information
- Highlight your work with students and for your school – programs, working with students, etc.
- Participate in your school team meetings – MTSS, ITeam, Leadership, PBIS, School Climate, etc.
- Contact legislators and let them know how important it is school social workers fall under the definition of teacher.