

Qualifications to be a School Social Worker

To be employed as a school social worker in the Baldwin County Public School System, one must have a Master's Degree in Social Work and be a Licensed Graduate Social Worker (LGSW).

The Baldwin County Public School System currently employs 12 social workers. They are assigned to the following schools:

- ◆ **Ms. Tiffany Anderson**—Pine Grove Elementary School
- ◆ **Mrs. Anna Barrett**—Fairhope High School
- ◆ **Mrs. Ansley Beverly**—Foley High School
- ◆ **Mrs. Angela Dean**—Robertsdale High School
- ◆ **Mrs. Maggie Haag**—Spanish Fort High School
- ◆ **Mrs. Donna Johnson**—Baldwin County High School
- ◆ **Ms. Joycelyn Kennedy**—Bay Minette Middle School
- ◆ **Mrs. Lindsey Lee**—Daphne High School
- ◆ **Mrs. Desirea McGilvray**—Elementary schools in North Baldwin & in Central Baldwin
- ◆ **Mr. Jeremy Smith**—Elementary schools on the Eastern Shore & in South Baldwin
- ◆ **Ms. Shayla Smith**—Elberta Elementary School
- ◆ **Mrs. Diane Wharton**—Gulf Shores High School

Why do Today's Schools Need School Social Workers?

Children today are increasingly victims of many social forces that negatively affect their role as students. The family is in a state of change, and until it becomes stabilized, children's unmet physical and emotional needs will continue to interfere with their ability to learn, and ultimately, to graduate from high school.

For over one hundred years, school social workers have been providing a critical link between school, home, and the community. The school social work profession has consistently focused on coordinating the efforts of schools, families, and communities toward helping students to improve their academic achievement and social, emotional, and behavioral competence by using its unique perspective of viewing the person in his or her environment. School social workers seek to ensure equitable education opportunities; ensure that students are mentally, physically, and emotionally present in the classroom; and promote respect and dignity for all students.

Moreover, school social workers are uniquely qualified to work with students who are economically disadvantaged, have poor attendance, and have special needs. Consequently, they can facilitate interventions that increase students' motivation to learn, and they can also provide students with a connection to their school environment.

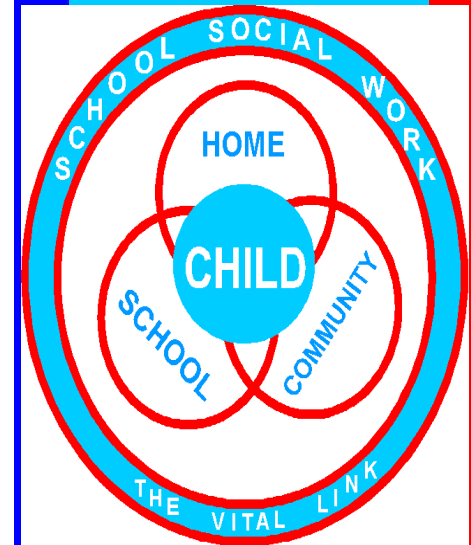
School social workers are expected to adhere to the ethics and values of the social work profession, and they are also expected to use the NASW *Code of Ethics* as a guide to ethical decision making, while understanding the unique aspects of school social work practice and the needs of the students, parents, and communities they serve.

For more information, contact:
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School Social Workers



Mr. Eddie Tyler
Superintendent

Mr. Anthony Sampson
Director of
Prevention & Support
Services

School Social Workers: The Link Between Home, School, and the Community

School social workers work with students in order to help resolve their personal, emotional, and social problems. In an effort to promote students' academic and social success, social workers are expected to do the following:

- ◆ Respond to all referrals for school social services in a professional and timely manner.
- ◆ Collaborate with school personnel.
- ◆ Make home and community visits.
- ◆ Use their professional skills to perform thorough and objective social and environmental assessments.
- ◆ Assist in the identification of those students who are at-risk and develop individualized interventions in order to promote their academic success.
- ◆ Collaborate with referrals to community agencies.
- ◆ Document all client contacts and interventions.
- ◆ Develop rapport with students and act as a mentor when appropriate through individual and small group contact.
- ◆ Assist with crisis prevention and intervention as needed.



How Are Social Workers the Link Between Homes, Schools, and Communities?

To promote students' academic and social success, school social workers can provide specialized services that include:

- ◆ Home visits
- ◆ Parent education and training
- ◆ Collaboration with community agencies
- ◆ Referrals for services
- ◆ Crisis prevention and intervention
- ◆ Collaboration with school professionals

How are Social Workers the Link for Students?

As part of the education team, school social workers help students to:

- ◆ Improve attendance
- ◆ Increase academic success
- ◆ Cope with difficult and crisis situations
- ◆ Develop self-esteem and self-discipline
- ◆ Learn problem-solving, conflict resolution, and decision-making skills
- ◆ Remove barriers to academic success
- ◆ Improve interpersonal relationships

How Are Social Workers the Link for Parents and Families?

Through working with students, schools, and communities, school social workers support parents and families to:

- ◆ Actively participate in their child's education
- ◆ Access and utilize school and community resources more effectively
- ◆ Alleviate family stress, which can enable the child to function more effectively in school and the community

How are Social Workers the Link for Schools?

School social workers help educators by:

- ◆ Identifying and eliminating barriers to educational success
- ◆ Providing ongoing emotional and behavioral support to students
- ◆ Coordinating community resources to meet students' needs
- ◆ Developing and implementing plans to enhance students' school success
- ◆ Identifying and reporting child abuse and neglect situations
- ◆ Communicating information about how factors such as family, culture, socioeconomic status, as well as physical and mental health can affect students' performance.
- ◆ Assessing students with mental health concerns

