





ACSSW  
MENTAL  
HEALTH  
AWARENESS  
CAMPAIGN

ENCOURAGE  
AWARENESS  
RESPECT  
ADVOCATE  
UNDERSTANDING










## School Social Work: Meeting the Mental Health Needs of Students







### Educating school staff, parents and students on:

-  positive mental health and how to nurture resiliency and social emotional needs of all students
-  signs and symptoms of mental health problems
-  how to respond when students and/or their parent may be experiencing mental health problems
-  how to access School Social Work services to address student and family mental health problems

### Providing mental health services to students affected by mental health problems:

-  individual crisis intervention, psycho-social mental health assessment including threat assessments
-  family outreach and engagement: helping families access and negotiate community based mental health treatment and other community services, re-engaging disconnected families through community outreach and home visits
-  ongoing mental health monitoring
-  individual and group counseling
-  case management and coordination of school and community resources
-  assisting school staff to develop and implement positive behavioral interventions and supports (including functional behavioral assessments and intervention plans)
-  teaching peers how to provide support and cope positively with another student's mental health struggle

### Providing leadership and consultation in the development and implementation of evidenced-based school-wide prevention programming, including:

-  Positive Behavioral Interventions & Supports (PBIS)
-  Restorative practices
-  Trauma informed care
-  Violence reduction and bully prevention programs
-  Suicide prevention programs
-  Social emotional learning programs



- Teen pregnancy programs
- District-wide school safety & crisis management programs
- Drop-out & truancy prevention programs
- Child abuse prevention programs

Providing leadership and consultation in the collection of youth, school and community data to monitor the ongoing mental health needs of students and the impact of school-based mental health services.

## Collaborating with School Administrators & Staff

*How can school administrators and other educators working in collaboration with school mental health professionals (School Social Workers, Psychologists, Counselors and Nurses) improve mental health, academic and vocational outcomes for all students?*

Develop a plan to support implementation of recommendations set forth in *Responding to the Mental Health Needs of Students* (2006, Principal Leadership):

- √ *Build the capacity of staff members to respond to the mental health needs of students.*
- √ *Hire adequate numbers of school mental health professionals and empower them to take leadership roles in the provision of mental health services in schools.*
- √ *Promote a continuum of services that includes school-wide mental health prevention programming and intensive interventions*
- √ *Create opportunities to regularly assess the mental health needs of students and the effectiveness of school-based services.*