

Frequently Asked Questions

What is a School Social Worker?

- A New York State certified, specially educated, caring person
- A school person who provides guidance and support to all students
- A resource person
- A consultant
- A group Facilitator
- A consultant for teachers, parents, students and administrators

What does a School Social Worker do?

- Provides programs in cooperation with other staff focused on topics such as Social Skills Building, Divorce and Conflict Resolution and Drug and Alcohol abuse
- Works with individuals and groups of students
- Helps identify needs of students
- Encourages better inter-personal relationships
- Promotes positive attitudes and choices
- Aids teachers and parents in helping students
- Assists parents in making use of community resources
- Facilitates discussion groups
- Provides crisis intervention for students faced with stressful events such as the death of a family member, family breakdown, abuse situations, change of school, etc.
- Maintains confidences
- Provides Crisis Intervention

What is the purpose of individual counseling, group meetings and classroom guidance?

- To help students develop self-understanding and self-awareness
- To build self-confidence and self-esteem
- To encourage students to recognize and make the best use of their capabilities
- To provide opportunities for students to feel successful
- To give students an opportunity to talk about educational and personal-social concerns
- To encourage students to recognize, understand and work through learning difficulties
- To help students acquire the social and communication skills necessary for productive interaction with teachers, peers and family
- To teach students a decision-making/ problem solving process
- To teach students how to relax and cope when confronted with stress producing situations

Who seeks help from the School Social Worker?

Students...

- I'm new here and I can't seem to make friends
- I don't seem to be getting along with my parents
- I'm worried about my work and I wonder if I'll pass
- I don't have a problem- I just want to tell you that my dog died
- I just have to talk to someone who won't laugh at me
- I'm not sure I know what I want

Parents...

- Sam has difficulty getting off to school in the morning
- Sarah doesn't seem to have friends and spends a great deal of time by herself
- Sean has difficulty going to sleep at night and often has nightmares
- We don't seem to be able to communicate with Sally
- Our daughter is getting poor grades and we don't know how to help her

Teachers/Administrators

- I need some ideas to help my students develop more positive relationships
- John is very restless in my classroom
- Joan is often absent
- Joe is a new student and needs some special attention
- Jane's behavior has been quite different lately