School Social Work Association of America
Resolution Statement

SCHOOL SOCIAL WORK SERVICES

The School Social Work Association of America believes that students face enormous challenges to achieving academic success. Emotional, social, and behavioral problems can be serious impediments to learning and can have a deleterious effect not just on the individual student, but on others in the school setting. Schools, families, and communities must work collaboratively to assist students to achieve positive academic and behavioral outcomes. SSWAA believes that school social work services provide a comprehensive approach to meeting the needs of students through early identification, prevention, intervention, counseling, and support.

School social workers are trained qualified professionals, who meet state requirements to practice social work specifically in the school setting. They provide direct services to students who experience academic and social difficulties, developing relationships that bolster self-esteem and reward positive behavior. School social workers support teachers by offering options for addressing students= needs and by participating on the student support team. School social workers work with families and communities to coordinate services to the student and family.

According to the National Mental Health Association, 17.5 million children are in need of mental health services. Less than one in five are receiving those services. School social workers very often help students who otherwise might not receive services, due to inaccessibility or lack of availability of services. Enhanced school social work services are essential to meet this pressing need.

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Approved by the SSWAA Board of Directors on May 1, 2001.
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