



Social Work & Attendance Counselling Services

WHO are School Social Workers?

School Social Workers assist children, families and school personnel to enhance students' well-being to maximize their educational opportunities and learning potentials.

Social Workers employed by GECD SB have a Master of Social Work degree (M.S.W.) and are registered with the Ontario College of Social Workers and Social Service Workers, which regulates the profession.

Areas of expertise include:

developmental stages

- social/emotional functioning

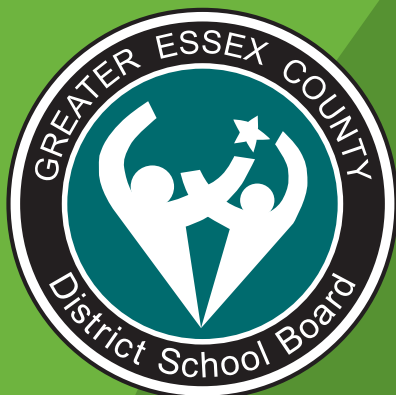
- interpersonal relationships

- individual, family and group dynamics

- interviewing and counselling skills

- crisis intervention skills

- community referral



GREATER ESSEX COUNTY
District School Board

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School Social Workers are governed by a set of professional ethics that include respect for the individual's right to privacy and confidentiality. Further information can be found at:

www.ocswssw.org

publicboard.ca

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WHEN can Social Workers Help?

School Social Workers may help students, families, and/ or schools when the following issues affect school adjustment:

- *Persistent absenteeism*
- *Anxiety related concerns*
- *Mood related concerns*
- *Personal adjustment*
- *Individual crisis*
- *Traumatic response*
- *Family adjustment*

These therapeutic interventions are guided by best practice within the field of mental health.

HOW to Access Services

The process to access School Social Work Services is initiated by the school principal. For services to be provided parent/guardian consent is required.

Informed Consent & Privacy:

- Staff is required to obtain the parent's/guardian's informed consent to provide services to students.
- Consent is typically obtained through a discussion with the parent/guardian outlining the nature and purpose of service, costs and benefits and recommendations that may follow.
- Staff is required to inform the parent/guardian as well as the student of the limits to privacy relating to the provision of services.

WHAT are the Services Offered?

School Social Work Services are provided through:

- Consultation with parents, school personnel and community professionals
- Coordination of services
- Brief counselling services
- Classroom intervention and programs
- Professional development for staff
- Crisis intervention and traumatic response
- Violence Threat Risk Assessment

Attendance Counselling Services

Regular school attendance until the age of 18 is mandatory under the Education Act.

The Social Worker/Attendance Counsellor or Re-Engagement Attendance Counsellor, upon referral by the school administration, will conduct an inquiry into attendance matters and will work to identify factors that are inhibiting a student's attendance and a plan will developed to support attendance.

School Social Workers Build Partnerships With...

Students:

- Receive maximum benefit from their educational opportunities
- Enhance self-esteem
- Improve relationships with peers, teachers, family and community
- Cope with stress in healthy manner
- Develop problem-solving and decision-making skills

Parents:

- Actively and effectively participate in their children's education
- Understand and meet their children's social and emotional needs
- Understand available programs in the school and community

Schools:

- Understand social/emotional, familial, health and societal factors which impact student's experience.
- Develop strategies/program in meeting the social/emotional needs of students and enhancing school environment
- Address traumatic events or crises

Communities:

- Advocate for and facilitate the delivery of community services
- Understand school policies, programs and practices
- Develop and advocate for resources which adequately meet the needs of students and families