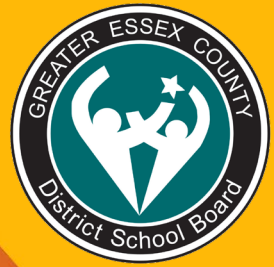


# Social Work & Attendance Counselling Services



## 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

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: [Ontario College of Social Workers and Social Service Workers](#)

## 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