

School Social Work Services

Frequently Asked Questions (continued)

“How are the SSW goals determined for the student?”

Based on the evaluation and the student’s identified needs, goals are developed by the IEP team. The goals are monitored for progress at regular intervals.

“How is special education SSW service discontinued?”

When a student has met his or her IEP goals and is effectively accessing the school curriculum, they may no longer be eligible for services. An IEP will be help to discuss discontinuation of SSW services.



Information Resources

Michigan Association of School Social Workers

www.masswmi.org

School Social Work Association of America

www.sswaa.org

National Association of Social Workers

www.socialworkers.org

Positive Behavioral Interventions & Support

www.pbis.org



Van Buren Intermediate School District

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Michigan Relay Center - 800-649-3777
www.vbisd.org

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Van Buren Intermediate School District

Providing Educational Services For A Better Tomorrow



School Social Work Services





School Social Work Services

Who is a Special Education School Social Worker?

A special education School Social Worker (SSW) is a person who has been trained to provide evaluation, counseling and consulting services to students who have behavioral or emotional difficulties in the school setting. SSWs possess a licensed masters degree in social work with school endorsement.

Special education social workers assist students to develop positive social skills and behavior choices to help them in accessing, participating and progressing in the general curriculum.

This is accomplished by:

- Conducting a comprehensive evaluation to determine if a student's social or emotional behavior is interfering with their school success to the extent that they qualify under state guidelines for special education services.
- Determining what services and programs will assist students.
- Providing social skills training.
- Providing counseling to help develop positive emotional responses to difficult feelings, stress and frustration.

- Assist in developing positive behavior supports for the student.
- Consulting with school staff on techniques to help students.
- Collaborate with parents and/or community service providers.

How is Eligibility Determined?

Special education SSW services are established through the evaluation and placement process.

- A SSW may utilize observation, interviews, discipline reports, behavior and emotional rating scales, teacher input, and parent input to evaluate a student's ability to access the curriculum.
- An Individual Education Plan Team (IEPT) meeting is held following the evaluation. Eligibility and special education SSW services are determined based on the specific needs of the students.
- If a student is eligible for special education and it is determined at the IEPT meeting that SSW services would assist the student to access the curriculum, goals would then be developed for the student.

Who is Eligible for SSW?

Students who are eligible display significant emotional/behavioral deficits that interfere

with their ability to access and progress in the general curriculum. These deficits must have occurred over a period of at least three months. They cannot be primarily the result of intellectual, sensory or health factors; or due to environmental, cultural or economic differences.

Frequently Asked Questions?

“How will School Social Work (SSW) services help my child?”

Counseling may help your child improve social skills, control impulsive reactions, learn problem solving techniques, increase self awareness, and better communicate their thoughts and feelings.

“Can I request special education SSW services for my child?”

Special education SSW services are designed to address the challenges interfering with a student's ability to be successful at school. Services are available for students who are eligible through an IEP.

General education school social work services or outpatient counseling in a community agency may be accessed for non-special education students.