



## Wisconsin School Social Workers Association

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Dear Wisconsin School Administrators,

March 4th through the 10th marks ***National School Social Work Week; “United to Make a Better World!”*** School Social Workers are trained mental health professionals with a degree in social work who provide services related to a person's social, emotional and life adjustment to school and/or society. School Social Workers are the link between the home, school and community in providing direct as well as indirect services to students, families and school personnel to promote and support students' academic and social success. ([www.sswaa.org](http://www.sswaa.org))

School social workers have a wide range of job functions such as:

- Developing and implementing treatment plans and discharge plans that support student self-determination;
- Providing direct therapeutic services such as individual, family or group therapy regarding specific issues;
- Providing crisis management services, including assessing for safety;
- Advocating for student services and students’ best interests;
- Providing case management services such as, referrals to community resources, collaboration with other professionals;
- Providing trainings and workshops to teachers, school staff and parents;
- Conducting home visits;
- Identifying and resolving ethical issues;
- Supporting homeless students and families and those families that are disenfranchised;
- Coordinating services surrounding attendance, truancy and dropout;
- Implementing trauma-informed care;
- Facilitating restorative practice interventions
- Being an integrated PBIS and RtI team member;
- Assessing students with mental health and AODA concerns;
- Managing and supervising staff; and
- Contributing to a multidisciplinary treatment team



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### ***What does it take to become a school social worker in Wisconsin?***

Three universities in Wisconsin are authorized to provide education and training that meet criteria for the DPI School Social Worker state license. School Social Worker license requirements require master level students to acquire 640 internship hours in a school setting, supervised by a school social worker and a completed portfolio meeting *all of the DPI school social work standards*.

### ***Future School Social Work candidates (2018):***

- UW Madison is expecting to have 26 ready to be DPI licensed graduates from the part and full time program.
- UW Green Bay expects to have 7 DPI licensed graduates
- UW Milwaukee has had a significant increase in the number of students in their MSW program

Often school social workers perform their jobs in isolation and may not have access to consistent supervision. In any event, we ask that you continue to support the work of School Social Workers within your school district so that they can continue to support students and families.

Sincerely,

Nichole Grube, WSSWA President  
Wisconsin School Social Workers Association