

SCHOOL SOCIAL WORK SERVICES

Executive Summary

School Social Workers provide supportive services division-wide at all educational levels in all schools. They work with agencies and school staff to remove or decrease barriers to academic achievement; serve on IEP, varied special education Section 504 committees; and provide sociological information to be used to determine eligibility. School Social Workers document attendance interventions and have reports available for further use; intervene for high risk students and their families; and work with court services. They assist in contacting parents who are difficult to reach; help schools design programs to enhance parental involvement; work with pre-school and other special programs making referrals as appropriate, participating in screenings and evaluations; and conducting counseling and Out-Reach services with and for parents. They provide informational workshops for school staff relating to varied procedures.

“Social work services in schools” means those services provided by a school social worker or qualified visiting teacher; including:

1. Preparing a social or developmental history on a child with a disability;
2. Group and individual counseling with the child and family;
3. Working in partnership with parents and others on those problems in a child’s living situation (home, school, and community) that affect the child’s adjustment in school;
4. Mobilizing school and community resources to enable the child to learn as effectively as possible in the child’s educational program; and
5. Assisting in developing positive behavioral intervention strategies for the child.

*Licensure Regulations for School Personnel (8 VAC 20-21 et seq.);
34 CFR § 300.24(b) (13)*

SCHOOL SOCIAL WORKER ASSIGNMENTS

SCHOOL

SOCIAL WORKER

Clara Byrd Baker Elementary

Janice Pentz

DJ Montague Elementary

Janice Pentz

James River Elementary

Robert Keller

Norge Elementary

Jane Ferguson

Matoaka Elementary

Stephanie Gallas

Matthew Whaley Elementary

Robert Keller

Rawls Byrd Elementary

Stephanie Leek

Stonehouse Elementary

Stephanie Leek

Berkeley Middle School

Maria Montgomery

James Blair Middle School

Maria Montgomery

Toano Middle School

Susan Mullen

Jamestown High School

Stephanie Gallas

Warhill High School

Susan Mullen

Lafayette High School

Jane Ferguson

INTERVENTION AND ASSESSMENT

School Social Workers function cooperatively with community agency representatives, school staff, administrators, parents, and students to provide supportive assistance and serve as liaison between school and parents.

- School Social Workers function cooperatively with community agency representatives, school staff, administrators, parents, and students to provide supportive assistance and serve as liaison between school and parents.
- The Social Worker Program encompasses nine functional areas which include:
 - social assessments;
 - meetings—Eligibility, Child Study, Student Assistance Plan participation, 504 Assistance, IEP, and Manifestation Determination Meetings;
 - parental contact, including home visits, for the purpose of home school communication, encouraging participation and obtaining signatures;
 - attendance intervention; court referrals, court appearances, releases for compulsory attendance, program and school monitoring;
 - provide interpretation of guidelines, policies and procedures pertaining to residency, homelessness, custody/guardianship, and reporting child abuse/neglect;
 - consultation with, and referrals to, community agencies including Family Assessment Planning Team (FAPT);
 - consultation with school personnel regarding behavioral, social and academic support;
 - observations upon request;
 - counseling including group, individual and family as needed;
 - record keeping and reporting, and assessment of program effectiveness and functionality

HOMELESS CHILDREN AND YOUTH

Before schools can be certain they are complying with legislation related to educating students experiencing homelessness, they must understand who may be considered homeless. The McKinney-Vento Action (42 U.S.C. 1143a(2)) defines “homeless children and youth” (i.e., school-aged and younger) as,

- Children and youth who lack a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence, including children and youth who are:
 - Sharing the housing of other persons due to loss of housing, economic hardship, or a similar reason,
 - Living in motels, hotels, trailer parks, or camping grounds due to lack of alternative adequate accommodations,
 - Living in emergency or transitional shelters,
 - Abandoned in hospitals,
 - Awaiting foster care placement;
- Children and youth who have a primary nighttime residence that is a public or private place not designated for, or ordinarily used as, a regular sleeping accommodation for human beings;
- Children and youth who are living in cars, parks, public spaces, abandoned buildings, substandard housing, bus or train stations, or similar settings;
- Migratory children who qualify as homeless because they are living in circumstances as described above.

Note. The term *unaccompanied youth* includes a youth not in the physical custody of a parent or guardian. This would include runaways living in shelters, abandoned buildings, cars, on the street, or in other inadequate housing; children and youth denied housing by their families (sometimes referred to as “throwaway children and youth”); and school-aged unwed mothers living in homes for unwed mothers because they have no other housing available.

In determining whether or not a child or youth is homeless, consider the *relative permanence of the living arrangements*. Determinations of homelessness should be made on a case-by-case basis.

If you have questions concerning homelessness status for students, contact your school's School Social Worker or call the Office of Student Services at 253-0004.

Students who have been identified as homeless have the right to:

- Enroll in a new school without proof of residency, immunizations, school records, or other papers;
- Stay in their school of origin the entire time they are homeless and until the end of any academic year in which they move into permanent housing;
- Transportation to and from their school or origin, even if they are living outside of the school zone;
- Transportation services comparable to those provided to other students;
- Not be segregated from other students based on their homeless status;
- Be provided services comparable to those received by other students in the school;
- Free lunch provided by the school.

Source: 42 U.S.C. 1143a(2), McKinney-Vento Act (Section 725)

COMMUNITY RESOURCES

1. AVALON: Shelter for women who are victims of domestic violence
(24 hour help line):..... 258-5051
2. BACON STREET: Substance Abuse Services..... 253-0111
3. BIG BROTHERS/BIG SISTERS:..... 253-0676
4. COLONIAL SERVICES BOARD: Counseling, medication
Management, and other services for Mental Health, Substance
Abuse, and Mental Retardation..... 220-3200
5. DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES:
 James City County (Main Number)..... 259-3100
 JCC CHILD PROTECTIVE SERVICES (CPS)..... 259-3201
 Williamsburg CPS..... 220-6161
6. FISH: 312 Waller Mill Road – food & clothing to residents..... 220-9379
7. OLDE TOWNE MEDICAL CENTER: 5249 Olde Towne Rd;
provides cost effective primary healthcare services 259-3258
8. WJCC COMMUNITY ACTION AGENCY
312 Waller Mill Road..... 229-9332
9. WJCC PARKS & RECREATION CENTERS
5301 Longhill Road..... 259-4183
8901 Pocahontas Trail..... 887-5810
10. WJCC COUNTY 9TH JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT SERVICES UNIT
4903 Ironbound Road, Suite D (Intake)..... 564-2460
Clerk of the Court..... 564-2242
11. UNITED WAY
312 Waller Mill Road Help Line..... 229-2222