

What is School Social Work?

- School social work is a specialized area of practice within the broad field of social work.
- In North Carolina, school social workers are licensed through the Department of Public Instruction.
- School social work practice includes home visits, assessment, group and individual counseling, program development, conflict resolution, crisis intervention, consultation and coordination of school and community services.

What makes School Social Workers unique?

- School social workers bring professional knowledge, perspective and skills to the school system.
- They provide intervention within the home, community and school to remove barriers to student achievement.
- They bring people together to create an environment of effective problem solving and learning.



The mission of Buncombe County Schools is to collaborate with all stakeholders to provide a safe, caring and engaging learning environment that prepares all students to become responsible citizens in a diverse, global society.

Should I contact a School Social Worker to discuss my situation?

Any Buncombe County Schools student, parent, or staff person can contact their School Social Worker regarding any issue that interferes with student learning, including:

- Financial instability
- A family's involvement with the Department of Social Services
- Conflict at home
- Homelessness
- Truancy
- Family structure changes

For more information, please contact your School Social Worker:

School Social Workers

Ensuring student success by removing barriers to learning

Buncombe County Schools

School Social Workers:

The Vital Link

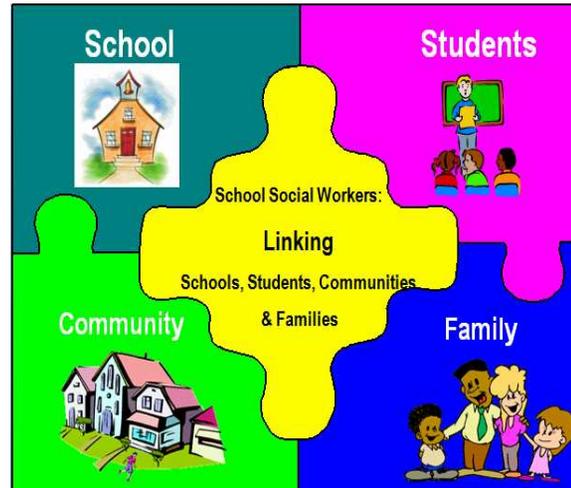
Some students have difficulty achieving academic success due to social, emotional and behavioral problems impacting school performance. *School social workers* help these students through early identification, prevention, intervention, counseling and support.

In the Buncombe County School System, some school social workers are known as *Family School Specialists*.

School Social Work Involves:

- Addressing student and family needs.
- Promoting communication between the school, home and community agencies.
- Collaborating with and supporting school staff.
- Assisting teachers to access resources.
- Establishing partnerships with community resources.
- Implementing prevention programs.
- Providing crisis intervention.

*Connecting
Families, Schools
and Communities*



Helping SCHOOLS:

- Meet educational goals of students from diverse backgrounds
- Understand how students are impacted by cultural, economic and other factors
- Identify students' unmet needs
- Work effectively with parents
- Implement policies to address: school safety, school attendance, crisis response and child abuse and neglect

Helping STUDENTS:

- Obtain academic, social and emotional support
- Become resilient, successful learners
- Cope in times of crisis
- Gain personal and social competencies

Helping THE COMMUNITY:

- Coordinate the delivery of educational, socioeconomic and health services
- Identify and develop appropriate resources to adequately meet the needs of students and families

Helping FAMILIES:

- Participate effectively in their children's education
- Understand educational and developmental needs of the child
- Access school and community resources
- Strengthen parenting skills
- Understand BCS policies