

## Why do we have School Social Workers?

The Ontario Ministry of Education recognizes that many factors enhance or impede a child's ability to learn. Lakehead Public Schools employs School Social Workers to assist children, families, schools and communities so that students make the most of their educational opportunities.



## Who are School Social Workers?

Qualifications for professional School Social Workers include Bachelor of Social Work B.S.W., Master of Social Work M.S.W., or Doctorate of Social Work Ph.D. or D.S.W. School Social Workers are registered with the Ontario College of Social Workers and Social Service Workers.

Specialized,  
Professional training  
to deal with and provide:

- ✓ Interpersonal relationships
- ✓ Individual and family functioning
- ✓ Interviewing and counselling
- ✓ Community development
- ✓ Assessing community resources
- ✓ Assessment, consultation and intervention strategies



**Students  
Schools  
Social Work**



### **The Role of the School Social Worker**

References

Ontario Association of Professional Social Workers  
School Social Work Committee

Ontario Association for Counselling and  
Attendance Services

## When do School Social Workers Help?

School Social Workers help students and families with the following issues:

- Aggression, anger
- Alcohol and/or drug abuse
- Attendance problems
- Behavioural problems
- Child abuse
- Classroom problems
- Communication problems
- Death
- Depression
- Family problems
- Parenting questions
- Poor peer relationships/social skills
- Remarriage
- Separation/Divorce
- Self-esteem
- Sexuality questions
- Stress
- Unhappiness

## What services are offered?

- Advocacy
- Agency liaison
- Attendance
- Case conferences
- Classroom interventions
- Community development
- Prevention of problems  
e.g., suicide, child abuse
- Consultation
- Family counselling
- Multi-cultural outreach
- Outreach to parents
- Parenting skills
- Policy development
- Program development
- Staff development
- Practical aid

*School Social Workers  
establish partnerships  
with students, parents,  
schools and communities...  
So that*

### Students

- maximize opportunities
- gain personal understanding
- improve relationships with others
- improve self-esteem
- cope with stress
- develop decision-making skills

### Parents/Guardians

- become active and effective participants in children's education
- understand and meet their children's social and emotional needs
- understand programs in the school and community available to students with special needs
- utilize school and community resources

### Schools

- understand factors that affect students' abilities and achievement
- use multi-disciplinary resources develop non judgmental policies and value the worth of students as people first, students second

### Community

- understand school policies, programs and Practices
- minimize environmental factors which inhibit learning
- develop resources which meet the needs of students and families

## Attendance Counselling

We protect the right of every student to an education.

This involves:

1. The rights of every student to attend school or an approved legal alternative.
2. The right of every student to make the most of their school experience.

It is the responsibility of the Attendance Counsellor to:

- Follow The Education Act and Ministry of Education regulations for Attendance Counselling.
- To be conversant with other pertinent acts, regulations and amendments.
- Promote the educational and personal growth of young people who have attendance problems by working with students, parents, teachers, administrators and community agencies.

### Improving Attendance

- Through counselling of students, parents and staff
- Assess and address the factors leading to absenteeism
- Act as liaison between the school, the home and the community
  - communicate resources available
  - communicate concerns of students, parents and staff
- Initiate the use of protective services
- Continue to upgrade counselling skills through professional development
- Assume primary responsibility for resolving attendance cases, and when necessary, use the Provincial Court.