



School Social Work
Association of America

ILLUMINATE THE IMPACT THE RIGHT RATIO: ENSURING EVERY STUDENT GETS THE SUPPORT THEY NEED



IGNITION POINTS

These points highlight the importance of School Social Workers and the need for adequate resources and staffing to support students effectively.

- 🔥 **Importance of School-Based Supports:** Students perform better when they have access to the right supports. School Social Workers play a key role in helping students thrive by addressing their social, emotional, and academic needs.
- 🔥 **SSWAA Recommendations on Staffing Ratios:** The School Social Work Association of America (SSWAA) recommends a maximum ratio of 1 MSW-level School Social Worker per 250 general education students, and 1:50 for students requiring intensive services.
- 🔥 **Critical Role of School Social Workers**
 - Mental Health & Behavior Support:** Address students' mental health, behavior, and academic success.
 - Early Intervention & Crisis Support:** Provide early intervention and support during crises, helping students in immediate need.
 - Connecting Resources:** Connect families, schools, and communities to essential services and resources.
 - Advocacy for Equity:** Advocate for policies that promote equity and access to necessary services for all students.
- 🔥 **Growing Need for Adequate Staffing:** As student mental health needs continue to rise, sufficient staffing is no longer optional—it's essential for student well-being and success.
- 🔥 **The Need for Sustainable Funding:** Schools must ensure sustainable funding and hiring practices to maintain the necessary social, emotional, and mental health services for students.