



School Social Work
Association of America

ILLUMINATE THE IMPACT

WHAT MAKES A HIGHLY QUALIFIED SCHOOL SOCIAL WORKER?



IGNITION POINTS

These points will help present the importance of qualifications and standards in the field of school social work, and how they contribute to student success.

- 🔥 **Essential Role of School Social Workers:** Highlight how School Social Workers are critical to student success, helping to break down learning barriers and create a supportive environment for students, families, and the school community
- 🔥 **SSWAA's Three Key Pillars for School Social Work Excellence:** Explain the three standards set by the School Social Work Association of America (SSWAA): Education, Competence, and State Certification & Licensure.
- 🔥 **Education – Master of Social Work (MSW):** Emphasize that School Social Workers must have an MSW from a CSWE-accredited program, which provides specialized training to address the holistic needs of students, encompassing school, family, and community.
- 🔥 **Competence – Skills & Expertise:** Stress that highly qualified School Social Workers are leaders in student support, ensuring positive academic, emotional, behavioral, and mental health outcomes. They employ evidence-based services, promote social justice, and advocate for students.
- 🔥 **Evidence-Based Practices and Multi-Tiered Interventions:** Explain how School Social Workers use data-driven decision-making to improve student achievement, implement multi-tiered interventions, and foster collaboration between schools, families, and communities.
- 🔥 **Ongoing Professional Development:** Discuss the importance of School Social Workers committing to continuous learning and self-reflection to adapt to the evolving needs of students and maintain high standards of practice.
- 🔥 **State Certification & Licensure:** Highlight SSWAA's advocacy for state level Department of Education certification, master-level licensure, and national school social work certification to ensure high professional standards and qualifications.
- 🔥 **School Social Work as a Specialized Profession:** Reinforce that school social work is a specialized, evidence-based profession requiring advanced education, demonstrated competence, and proper licensure, not an interchangeable role.
- 🔥 **Impact on Student Success and Systemic Change:** Emphasize that qualified School Social Workers are essential in driving student success & advocating for meaningful, systemic change within schools.