



School Social Work
Association of America

ILLUMINATE THE IMPACT SCHOOL SOCIAL WORK ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES



IGNITION POINTS

These points highlight the wide-ranging roles of School Social Workers and their impact on student outcomes across academics, behavior, mental health, school climate, and more.

- 🔥 **Leadership in Education:** School Social Workers are key leaders within the educational ecosystem, supporting advocacy and stewardship in various domains of student welfare and success.
- 🔥 **Holistic and Ecological Approach:** The work of School Social Workers is framed by leadership, collaboration with home-school-community partnerships, and data-informed decision-making, emphasizing a holistic, ecological, and youth-centered approach.
- 🔥 **Practice Domains:** School Social Workers operate across seven primary domains, all interconnected and spanning macro-to-micro levels of service delivery:
 - Academics:** Focus on improving academic outcomes through resource access, intervention, collaboration with families, and tiered support for students.
 - Behavior:** Support positive student behavior through policy review, assessments, interventions, and targeted support for students with intensive behavioral needs.
 - Crisis Prevention and Intervention:** Ensure student safety and well-being by establishing protocols, assessing needs, providing direct interventions, and offering postvention support.
 - Mental Health:** Promote a holistic mental health approach through policy analysis, school-wide support, and direct intervention at the Tier II and III levels.
 - Safe and Supporting School Climate:** Create positive school environments by addressing barriers to participation, collaborating with families and staff, and providing guidance on teacher and family support.
 - Social and Emotional Development:** Support the implementation of social and emotional curricula, conduct assessments, and offer direct interventions for students.
 - Special Education:** Assist in the referral process, support access and accommodations, and use evidence-based practices to assess and determine eligibility, while supporting individualized student plans.
- 🔥 **Ongoing Advocacy and Professional Development:** While the document provides a comprehensive overview, it is essential to recognize that no single social worker handles all tasks at once. The goal is to evaluate the field, identify barriers, and offer guidance for improving service delivery.
- 🔥 **Future Focus:** The ongoing efforts to build the professional viability of school social workers, document their effectiveness, and establish frameworks for evaluating service delivery are key to ensuring holistic, youth-centered support in schools.