



OUR REVIEW

The findings are significant but represent an imperfect view of the challenges associated with the lack of uniform standards for educational preparation and credentialing, especially compared to school counselors and school psychologists.

SCHOOL SOCIAL WORKER TOTALS

21,173 SSWAA Self-Reported

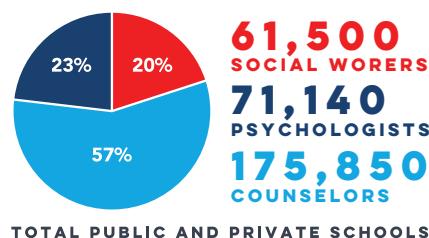
49,143 State-by-State Analysis

61,500 National Center for Education Statistics

NO STATES
ARE OUTPERFORMING THE
RECOMMENDED RATIO OF
1:250 SCHOOL SOCIAL WORKERS
FOR PK-12 STUDENTS



SCHOOL SOCIAL WORKERS COMPARED TO SCHOOL COUNSELORS AND SCHOOL PSYCHOLOGISTS



TALKING POINTS

THE NATIONAL CENSUS: THE STATUS OF SCHOOL SOCIAL WORK

Key points to highlight when speaking to school board members, PTA/PTO, and/or school principal.

SSWAA RESPONSE

- Bring into alignment the requirements to enter the school social work field by making recommendations as an association to the state departments of education to address state disparities.
- Develop a process to approve higher education programs for school social work that align with SSWAA's recommended entry-level preparation standards and competencies.
- Establish a research agenda aligned with the SSWAA strategic plan to address gaps identified in the research.
- Create a process to recognize PK-12 schools with exemplary school social work programs that align with the SSWAA National School Social Work Practice Model.

STATE RECOMMENDATIONS

- Policy efforts should be directed toward establishing state departments of education certification and title protection in every state to establish parity with school counselors and school psychologists.
- The minimum requirements for credentialing should reflect the specialized knowledge and educational preparation identified in the SSWAA definition of a highly qualified school social worker and align with the NASW Standards for School Social Work Services.

SSWAA STRATEGIC PLAN

- MSW Program Approval Process
- Standardize Entry-Level Requirements
- Establish Research Agenda in Partnership with Universities
- Recognize Exemplary Programs
- Provide Guidance on Developing School Social Workers

CRITICAL BARRIERS IN OBTAINING RELIABLE DATA

- Lack of enforcement of state school social work certification requirements
- Inconsistent certification across states and no certification in some states
- Variety of job titles
- Insufficient data on schools, districts, and school social workers in states



**School Social Work
Association of America**

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