



SCHOOL-BASED PSYCHIATRIC SOCIAL WORKERS (PSWs)

improve outcomes for all students and support whole families and school communities

Research indicates that children and school communities benefit from receiving school-based mental health services in the following ways:

- Higher GPA
- Increased standardized test scores
- Decreased incidences of suspension and expulsion
- Increased high school graduation rates
- Decreased involvement with the juvenile justice system
- Decreased absenteeism
- Increased ability to successfully cope with problems, crises, or traumatic experiences
- Increased parent/guardian, family, and community engagement
- Improved school climate

School-Based PSWs..

- **Collaborate with teachers to support core instructional services** in order to increase academic engaged time
- **Provide individual, group & family therapy**, including evidence-based mental health interventions that address barriers to learning and achievement
- **Build positive school climate** using a trauma-informed lens through the following: school-wide and classroom trainings, activities and presentations on violence prevention; empathy, social and coping skill building; mental health awareness; anti-bullying and more
- **Educate and train parents/guardians, family members and caregivers** to decrease barriers to learning and increase social-emotional competence
- **Offer professional development opportunities** on topics such as Psychological First Aid; Staff Wellness and Self Care; Trauma-Informed Schools; Crisis Preparedness, Response, and Recovery
- **Conduct student risk assessments and provide appropriate safety planning** for students; presenting with suicidal, self-injurious, and threat-related behaviors
- **Provide linkage to school and community supports and resources**, including case management
- **Deliver crisis response/intervention services**
- **Provide a mental health perspective** as active members of **mandatory school-site multi-disciplinary teams** such as the Student Support and Progress Team, Safe School Plan Team, School-Site Crisis Team and Threat Assessment Team

“ I don't know how any school could do without a PSW. ”

– LD East Elementary School Principal



“ Having a Psychiatric Social Worker on site is a blessing. The amount of money allocated to the position has paid for itself in a number of ways. ”

– LD Northwest High School Principal

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