

# SCHOOL SOCIAL WORKERS

School social workers support students' mental, social, and emotional well-being by providing direct and indirect services to students, their families, and the school community, helping our students thrive.

## SCHOOL SOCIAL WORKERS ARE TRAINED EXPERTS IN:



Mental Health



Crisis Awareness



Community Resources



Behavior

## THEY SUPPORT:

- ✓ **Students** by providing crisis intervention, individual and group counseling
- ✓ **Families** by assisting parents in accessing and utilizing school and community resources
- ✓ **School Personnel** by providing staff with essential information to better understand factors (cultural, societal, economic, familial, health) affecting a student's performance and behavior
- ✓ **School-Community Liaison** by advocating for new and improved community/school service to meet the needs of students and families



## RECOMMENDED RATIO:

**1** school social worker per **250** students<sup>1</sup>

## CURRENT RATIO IN PA:

**1** school social worker per **3,416** students

Some counties have **zero** LEAs that employ school social workers

<sup>1</sup> "Cops and No Counselors: How the Lack of School Mental Health Staff Is Harming Students," American Civil Liberties Union, March 4, 2019, [https://www.aclu.org/sites/default/files/field\\_document/030419-acluschooldisciplinereport.pdf](https://www.aclu.org/sites/default/files/field_document/030419-acluschooldisciplinereport.pdf)

# SCHOOL SOCIAL WORKERS

## CERTIFICATION

Professionals working in schools should be:



Educated



Trained



Experienced



Prepared

**SUPPORT  
HOUSE BILL  
390**

**CERTIFICATION PROGRAMS PREPARE  
PROFESSIONALS FOR SUCCESS IN  
SCHOOLS AND FOR STUDENTS.**



Employing mental health professionals in schools allows us to serve kids where they are, but there are challenges to navigate when performing this work in a school setting.

## CERTIFICATION PROGRAMS PROVIDE PROFESSIONALS WHO:



- ✓ **Understand** the education system and are integrated into the school community
- ✓ **Collaborate** the work of educators, administrators, parents, and their team of specialized instructional support professionals
- ✓ **Commit** to long-term student success and continuity of care
- ✓ **Adhere** to the high standards required for other professionals in schools, including the Educator Code of Conduct and Act 48 continuing education requirements