

Thornton Township High School District 205

School Social Worker

TITLE: School Social Worker

LOCATION: Designated Building

DEFINITION: Responsible for providing services to students with social-emotional problems which interfere with their adjustment and achievement in school.

The Social Worker will work to service the student population of District 205 to provide individual and/or group interventions and supports to all students. The Social Worker will also provide targeted strategies and supports for high need students with chronic absences, discipline infractions, and other challenges that are interfering with their success in high school. This position will work closely with the Care Team to create and manage a screening and intake process for all referred students, ensuring that students are being matched with and completing the appropriate interventions. The Social Worker position will also seek and/or provide professional development to school personnel and teachers regarding research-based interventions and procedures (as needed).

The Social Worker shall report to the Principal and/or the designated Assistant Principal.

PRIMARY

RESPONSIBILITY: Implements, manages and maintains best practice standards to address, monitor and support the social/emotional needs of the student population. Must follow all mandated federal, state and district policies relative to those services. Responsible for following published policies, as well ethically and morally sound practices.

KEY FUNCTIONS:

- A. To provide direct services to students with social-emotional challenges, concerns and/or immediate social/emotional situations and/or scenarios to promote optimum student success in the educational setting.

Representative Activities:

1. Provide information to parents about the effect of social-emotional factors on educational success. Suggest to parents how to effectively participate in obtaining educational services for their child.

Thornton Township High School District 205 School Social Worker

2. Provide consultation and in-service to school personnel as needed.
 3. Promote awareness, responsibility and sensitivity to cultural and social/economic diversity.
 4. Act in accordance with federal, state, district and school policies and practices.
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- B. Plan and run clinical groups on topics including grief management, and gender specific identity groups
 - C. Plan and implement trainings around aggression prevention and anger coping research-based programs.
 - D. Train adults in implementing Positive Behavioral supports and using a universal screening and referral form to assess needed student interventions
 - E. Attend meetings, be available to assist and collaborate with School Counseling Department
 - F. Serve as liaison between school, home and community agencies serving in the best interest of the student
 - G. Maintains accurate and complete records as required by law, district policy, and/or administration
 - H. Attend staff meetings and serve on committees as defined by the contract
 - I. Prepares reports as required by the school and/or district
 - J. Consults with the administrations and school staff on broad areas of social/emotional health
 - K. Performs functions mandated in laws regarding social/emotional evaluation and reevaluation, where the laws are applicable

Representative Activities:

1. Conduct interview and consultations for the purpose of responding to social/emotional issues and/or concerns
2. Assess student social/emotional, coping and adaptive behavior skills
3. Assess cultural background
4. Participates in identifying students requiring social work intervention
5. Facilitate communication of parent rights concerning the student's education

L. Crisis Intervention

A/R: Intervene, de-escalate and lessen the impact of social/emotional crises of students and help mobilize school and community resources as needed

Representative Activities:

1. Report suspected child abuse and neglect as a mandated reporter, and cooperate in the subsequent DCFS investigation when requested.

Thornton Township High School District 205

School Social Worker

2. Develop and help to implement crisis management principles related to social/emotional concerns and/or issues for classroom situations on an as needed basis.
3. Provide appropriate assistance along with other staff, students and school personnel in crisis situations.

REQUIREMENTS

- MSW/LCSW and/or an equivalent certification and/or credential
- Minimum of 5 years of experience in a high school setting
 - Must demonstrate a dedication, effectiveness and corresponding level of experience in working with high school aged students
 - Experience running therapeutic groups for social/emotional concerns and/or issues, engaging family systems and individual counseling
 - Experience of working in/being based in school/education setting
 - Experience in organizing supportive teams and groups around students
 - Cross-cultural experience
 - Experience in training others (including non-social work professionals) in research-based social/emotional techniques
- Self-Starter and Problem Solver
- Caring, Innovative and creative professional
- Experience working effectively with adults within complex systems

Physical Activity:

Work will require very infrequent lifting, pulling or pushing during the normal performance of tasks and responsibilities. Work may require frequent walking and standing.

Work Environment:

Work is performed in an environment where unusual temperature, noise, and hazards are relatively nonexistent.

Terms of Employment:

- Compensated per the Faculty Association Contract Agreement

Evaluation:

Performance of this job will be evaluated in accordance with provisions of the Faculty Association contract agreement.