

Wentzville R-IV School District

Position Description

Position Title: Early Childhood Educational Support Counselor (ESC)

**grant funded position*

Reports To: Principal/Executive Director of Student Services

SUMMARY

Early Childhood Educational Support Counselor (Educational Support Counselors (ESC) who are grant funded are Licensed Clinical Social Workers who are district-level support personnel. They may be assigned to one or to multiple schools. An ESC's focus is on supporting students with social/emotional challenges and providing individual and group therapy to students with mental health concerns. An ESC may provide a wide variety of direct services for students to reduce barriers to learning and thriving within a collaborative push-in, pull-out model in the education environment. An ESC also provides indirect services to students and families and actively consults with the building's Leadership Team and partner agencies' mental health professionals.

QUALIFICATIONS/REQUIREMENTS

- Master's degree in social work, counseling, or a related field
- Current clinical licensure in the state of Missouri as a Licensed Clinical Social Worker (LCSW)
- Minimum of 3 years of previous experience providing mental health services in a school setting - preferred
- Strong interpersonal and communication skills necessary to build therapeutic relationships with students, and collaborative relationships with teams; the ability to recognize and effectively respond to the varied priorities and expectations of others
- Strong clinical judgment skills necessary for assessing and managing risk of suicide, violence, mental health crises, and triage critical incidents
- Training in nonviolent crisis response and the ability to safely manage the physical demands of highly aggressive children, as part of school crisis teams
- Strong organizational skills and the ability to continuously reprioritize and triage in response to a large volume of student referrals and staff requests for Educational Support Counselor services
- Ability to travel as needed within the school district boundaries to assist other ESCs with crises, provide home visits, and attend community meetings, as assigned by the Executive Director of Student Services and/or Lead ESC
- Ability to maintain flexible schedules and be accessible via cell phone, to respond immediately to crises and urgent requests for assistance

ESSENTIAL JOB DUTIES

- Facilitates intensive support activities for students in severe crisis
- Screens and assesses the social, emotional, and psychological needs of students; assists with suicide assessments
- Works with students, families, and school personnel to identify strengths, develop goals, select interventions, link with appropriate community supports, and coordinate mental health services
- Provides individual and group therapy

- Assists with home visits, family counseling, and parenting education
- Serves as a district-level mental health resource and consultant for teachers, counselors, and administrators; collaborates regarding strategies for classroom management, positive behavior supports, social-emotional and character education, and skill-building interactions with students, to help address challenging behaviors
- Assists building-level teams with crisis management in response to critical incidents
- Assists in coordination and acts as a liaison with agency partners who provide school-based and community-based mental health services and presentations for students
- Maintains required Educational Support Counselor documentation
- Participates in the development of the I.E.P./Therapeutic Treatment, plan if appropriate
- Participates in evaluations and re-evaluations, which could include attending meetings, completing classroom observations, and administering a clinical assessment tool when necessary
- Acts as a liaison between the school, building counselors, psychologists, hospitals, psychiatrists, and partner agencies
- Provides consultative and therapeutic support services within Special Education classrooms to children with severe emotional disorders
- Attends building/department faculty meetings as required by the Principal/Executive Director of Student Services
- Supports building counselors, administrators, and School Support Interventionists in their efforts to work with students in crisis
- Develops in-service training for all staff in the area of mental health

OTHER DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Performs other appropriate school-related duties as assigned by the Principal/Executive Director of Student Services

ADA COMPLIANCE

The essential functions contained in this job description are in compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and are not an exhaustive list of the duties performed for this position. The additional duties and responsibilities listed are performed by the individuals currently holding this position, and additional duties may be assigned when appropriate.

TERMS OF EMPLOYMENT

Salary and work year to be in accordance with the current salary schedule and District Policies. Days employed in excess of the established work calendar shall be payable at the employee's regular daily rate. **Note: this position is dependent on grant funding and funding will be evaluated on a yearly basis.*

EVALUATION

Performance in this position will be evaluated annually in accordance with the provisions of District Policy on evaluation of instructional staff.