

International Network for School Social Work

<http://internationalnetwork-schoolsocialwork.htmlplanet.com>

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Electronic Newsletter March 2017

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Traumberuf Schulsozialarbeit Dream Job: School Social Work

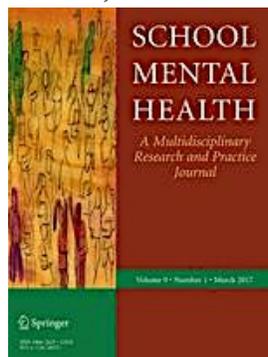
Watch the short video <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oG59Q1IW0Ks&feature=youtu.be> to see how school social workers in Germany enthusiastically describe their dream job. What makes it a dream job is working with school children of all ages, playing games, taking field trips, and organizing enjoyable group activities in classrooms and in the community. Use the subtitles (in German) to help you follow the action-filled and inspiring 15-minute video.

It can be a dream job if the new school social worker is able to overcome the challenges involved in entering the school system, winning over the administration, surviving bureaucracy, gaining the trust of teachers, locating a space to work, finding out what the school needs and getting to know the students and parents. It is often the case that salaries are low and working conditions may not be ideal, but salary and cushy working conditions are not often the priority for people who go into social work. Making it a dream job means developing a role you love and that fits the school's needs. This takes creativity and acquiring a range of skills to work with children and their schools. Learning those skills means you need resources that are sometimes hard to find.

Resources: journals, books, websites and another inspiring video

The **School Social Work Journal** contains original research, literature reviews, interventions and descriptions of model service delivery programs. It is published twice a year by the Illinois Association of School Social Workers.

<https://iassw.org/about/school-social-work-journal/>



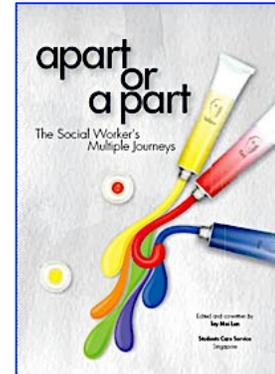
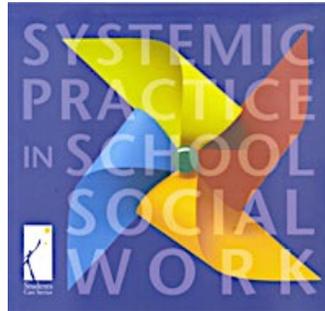
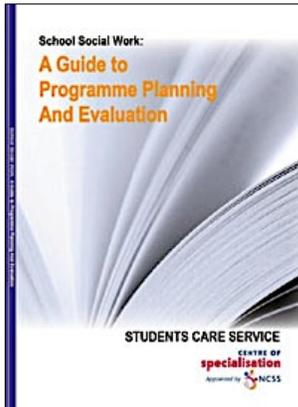
School Mental Health

All school social workers help school children with mental health. This multidisciplinary journal features prevention, treatment and education for behavioral health of children in schools. Print and online versions are published 4 times a year. Some open access (free)

articles are available online, on topics such as perceptions of an anxiety prevention program and bullying in secondary schools in Poland. <http://link.springer.com/journal/12310>



Systemic Practice in School Social Work, published by Students Care Service of Singapore, is the most practical and readable book I have seen for beginning school social workers. Short chapters on working with teachers and administrators, strengthening school-family ties, school refusal and much more clearly define the school social work niche in a school and show how to get started. Other books in this readable and practical series have clear, inspiring guidance on how to work in schools. http://www.students.org.sg/scs/sg/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=116&Itemid=142.



There is extensive **German language literature** on school social work. Examples of books that offer material that school social workers can use in their work are:

- Spies, A. & Pötter, N. (2011). *Soziale Arbeit an Schulen. Einführung in das Handlungsfeld Schulsozialarbeit*. Wiesbaden: VS Verlag /Springer. An easy read on working with school systems.
- Just, A. (2016). *Handbuch Schulsozialarbeit*. New York/Münster: Waxmann. Useful for social work students and practitioners, with materials such as games and templates.

Websites offer resources of various kinds.

- The website of the **School Social Work Association of America** offers extensive resources such as books, brochures, conferences, webinars and online continuing education opportunities. www.sswaa.org
- The **School Social Work History** website provides links to early and current school social work literature in the US and includes an archive of the newsletter of the International Network. www.schoolsocialworkhistory.com
- The **ERIC** website covers many topics related to education and can be searched for school social work or school mental health material from hundreds of journals and other sources. There are some free articles. <https://eric.ed.gov>
- www.schoolsocialwork.net is a free online resource for school social workers, started in 2012. It offers tools for practice, interventions and research.

If you are burned out by bureaucracy, paperwork or the challenges of school social work, you may be questioning if it is your dream job. This video of a school social worker who loves his job may help answer the question. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=L8qMkvwPrbE>