



International Network for School Social Work

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

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The School Social Work Manual

The Minnesota Department of Education, in collaboration with the Minnesota School Social Work Association, has produced a detailed manual for school social workers. At 500 pages long, it contains a wealth of information that is potentially useful to school social workers in any country. The following chapters contain basic information on school social work and are available at http://education.state.mn.us/mde/Learning_Support/Special_Education/Birth_to_Age_21_Programs_Services/Mental_Health/index.html.

- I. Mission of School Social Work Practice
- II. School Social Work Practice
- III. Professional Development
- IV. Legal Mandates
- V. Student Evaluation and Assessment Procedures
- VI. School Social Work Services
- VII. Special Education Policy and Procedures for Social Work Services in Schools
- VIII. Children's Mental Health
- IX. Social Work Professional Associations and Professional Resources
- X. Appendix

Each of these headings has chapters to download with detailed information, literature and references to online sources. The Appendix contains a school social work brochure, forms and many instruments to use in evaluations.

What do we know about school social work?

The School Social Work Manual developed by the Minnesota Department of Education and the Minnesota School Social Work Association is a fine example of what we know about good school social work practice. It is especially relevant to school social workers in Minnesota. However it contains much that can be used elsewhere with or without adaptation to local needs.

In using the Manual, it is important to understand a few things about how school social work is organized in Minnesota and most other states in the US.

Most of the school social workers are employed by the school system, use the title school social worker and belong to a professional school social work association.

- Many of the activities you can read about in the manual reflect the fact that the school social worker works in the school, rather than in an agency, and is seen as a team member within the education system.
- The title “school social worker” shows that the mission, goals and activities are those of social work.
- The professional recognition of the professional school social work association can be seen in the partnership between the Association and the Minnesota Department of Education in producing this manual.

Who employs school social workers?

School social workers are employed by the school system or Ministry of Education in Argentina, Australia, Canada, Germany, Ghana, India, Japan, Korea, Luxembourg, Macedonia, Mongolia, Saudi Arabia, Sweden, Taiwan, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom and United States. In several of these countries, some school social workers are also employed by other agencies. In New Zealand, Singapore, Sri Lanka and Hong Kong school social workers are employed mostly by non-governmental organizations.

What titles do school social workers use?

Shakespeare’s Juliet asks, “*What’s in a name? That which we call a rose by any other name would smell as sweet*”. School social workers go by a few names.

The title “school social worker” is used in Australia, Canada, Germany, Japan, Korea, Luxembourg, Mongolia, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Taiwan and the United Arab Emirates. In Ghana, a common title is “welfare officer”. In India the title “school social worker/special education teacher” is used; In Korea, “school social welfare worker/community education welfare officer”; In New Zealand “social worker in schools”; In the U.K. “education social worker or education welfare officer”.

Is there a professional association for school social workers?

Several countries have national school social work associations.

Canada: Canadian Association of School Social Workers and Attendance Counsellors
<http://casswac.ca/>

Finland: School Social Work Association of Finland
<http://www.talentia.fi/koulukuraattorit/index.php>

Ghana: School Social Workers Association Of Ghana

Japan: School Social Work Association of Japan

Korea: The Korean Society of School Social Work (KSSSW) and the Korean Association of School Social Workers (KASSW)

Mongolia: School Social Work Association of Mongolia

Sweden: Sveriges Skolkuratorers Förening
www.skolkurator.nu

U.K.: National Association of Social Workers in Education
<http://www.naswe.org.uk/>

U.S.A. School Social Work Association of America <http://www.sswaa.org>