

SOCIAL WORKER

QUALIFICATIONS: Appropriate Illinois Certification

REPORTS TO: Special Education Coordinator/Assistant
Superintendent

EXPECTATIONS:

The special education social worker applies a professional understanding of child psychosocial development and the influences of family, community and cultural differences as they interact with special educational processes. In particular, the special education social worker supports the families of special education children with instruction, counseling, and information needed to participate in their child's education. Together with the school psychologist, the social worker carries case management responsibility for all students referred for evaluation or identified as eligible for special education services.

RESPONSIBILITIES:

Psychosocial Services

- ◆ Facilitates an understanding that special education is a mutual effort and that the effectiveness of any one discipline is affected by the effectiveness of its interaction with the others through the following:
 - Promotes appreciation of the particular skills each team member brings to the team, i.e., parent, social worker, psychologist, administrator, and teacher.
 - Develops and monitors use of methods of communication with the team.
- ◆ Consults with teachers to help them better understand and work with particular special education students.
- ◆ Consults with administrators and teachers on broad areas of mental health and special education programming.
- ◆ Provides individual and group counseling services to special education students.

Support to Parents

- Serves as a liaison between schools, families, and community agencies.
- Assures that parents understand their rights and responsibilities as specified in special education law and regulation.
- Assures parents understand and are prepared to participate in the special education system.
- Assesses the need for and conducts instruction in various topics pertinent to parents' needs, such as parenting skills, ADHD, behavior management, etc.

Case Responsibility

- ◆ Collaborates with school psychologist to provide coordinated case management for all students referred for evaluation or identified a eligible for special education services.

- ◆ Facilitates the evaluation of students for special education services.
- ◆ Chairs multi-disciplinary conferences.
- ◆ Facilitates implementation of MDC decisions.

Professional Development

- ◆ Practices professional renewal through a variety of means.
- ◆ Maintains up-to-date knowledge of Illinois and federal legislation and regulations affective special education children and programming.
- ◆ Supervises social work interns.

TERMS OF EMPLOYMENT: 180 DAYS. Salary and benefits commensurate with contractual commitments.

EVALUATION: Performance of this job will be evaluated in accordance with administrative procedures and established contractual protocols.