

School Social Workers Improve Graduation Rates

Many factors conspire to make it difficult for some young people to make it through school—among them, poverty, substance abuse, family violence, and conflict. School Social Workers are perhaps the professionals best equipped to address the social and psychological issues that can block academic progress. Through individual and group counseling, assessment, referral, consultation, crisis intervention, and prevention programs, School Social Workers help young people overcome the difficulties in their lives, and as a result, give them a better chance at succeeding in school. They are trained to think of innovative solutions to complex problems. Their interventions often make a strong difference for young people at risk for academic failure and dropping out of school. Their goal is to overcome institutional barriers to learning and gaps in services to maximize academic performance.

Statistics related to student attendance and academic achievement:

- Missing 10% (or about 18 days) can make it harder to learn to read
- Approximately 83% of low-income children do not read proficiently by the end of third grade, a critical juncture on the road to high school graduation
- Approximately 74% of students who fail to read on grade level by the end of third grade will not finish high school on time

(www.attendanceworks.org)