



California Association of School Social Workers School Social Work Council NASWCA

Dear Educational Colleague:

The California Association of School Social Workers would like to inform you of a valuable personnel position that can help schools reduce attendance problems and other barriers to student success. Along with our national affiliates, the National Association of Social Workers (California Chapter, School Social Work Council), the School Social Work Association of America, and the American Council for School Social Work, we represent thousands of school social workers addressing barriers to learning in thousands of schools across the country.

Along with school counselors and school psychologists, school social workers are Pupil Personnel Service Credential employees in California authorized in Title 5 regulations (Section 80049.1). Most school social workers also hold the Child Welfare and Attendance credential. This certification also prepares school social workers for the mandated position of Supervisor of Attendance (Ed. Code 48240), which requires a Pupil Personnel Services or Administrative Services credential. Given that an estimated one-third of California students drop out, a pressing need exists to develop and implement effective strategies and policies to improve attendance and insure student success. As a member of the Pupil Services Team, we work collaboratively with our PPS colleagues to help students realize their full potential, both academically and socially. We also work to help schools bond our youth to the institutions that nurture them.

"The Pupil Personnel Services: School Social Work credential authorizes the holder to 1) assess home, school, personal, and community factors that may affect a student's learning; 2) identify and provide intervention strategies for children and their families including counseling, case management, and crisis intervention; 3) consult with teachers, administrators and other school staff regarding the social and emotional needs of students; and 4) coordinate family, school and community resources on behalf of students." (Sec. 80049.1).

Our Association works to keep members abreast of current funding and grant opportunities that may help to support our efforts in schools. Many of our members have particular areas of expertise and interest in such issues as dropout prevention and recovery, teen pregnancy, student success teams, interagency programs, after-school programs, school safety programs, and many others.

If school social work services do not already receive funding as part of your school's Pupil Services Team, we encourage you to include them in your certificated personnel listings. In order to assist you with this listing, we have included a job description based on the CTC School Social Work credential authorizations for your review and use. We also request that Human Resource Administrators consider including this resource in their certificated job banks. We welcome any information, discussion, or inquiries you may have regarding the SSW credential, job description, or other matters. Please feel free to copy or alter the SSW job description to fit your school and district needs.

For more information about the California Association of School Social Workers, please visit our website at www.cassw.net. To discuss employment possibilities, or if you have other inquiries, please contact one of our Regional Directors listed below, or President Tory Cox at 213-740-5832 or torycox@usc.edu.

We are also available for meetings and presentations to help school district personnel, school boards, and parent groups better understand school social work services and our commitment to student achievement and success. Thank you for your attention and consideration.

Sincerely and on behalf of the Board,

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