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# **Turtle River School Division - Administrative Procedure**

Section D – Student Services
Division Social Work Services

### **Division Social Work Services**

Turtle River School Division has a full-time social worker clinician who is available to help support students, families, and schools. The social worker is able to provide counseling services to students on a multitude of levels that vary from informal conversations to grief counselling. The social worker will also support students in other models beyond one-on-one situations, such as by working in small groups and by doing classroom interventions. The model used is "strength-based" and focuses on a student's strengths in order to help support social, emotional, academic, and physical well-being.

#### Goals of a School Social Work Clinician

- Understand student behavior from a holistic perspective
- Build on strengths to improve the social, emotional, and academic functioning of a student
- Build relationships with families, communities, and schools
- Ensure that programs are accessible to families and students
- Build upon a family's and student's strengths in the community

### What does the School Social Work Clinician Do?

- Work with students who are experiencing problems which are interfering with their success in school or with their attendance
- Advocate for families and students
- Collaborate with the school, community, and family to ensure the success of each student
- Educate and provide interventions to at-risk students
- Facilitate groups and individual counseling for students and families
- Crisis interventions
- Threat assessments
- Assist with referrals to collateral agencies
- Provide workshops for parents/guardians
- Promote cultural growth and awareness

Page 1 of 2

Board Informed:	Last Reviewed:	Last Revision:
December 20, 2024		

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#### Possible Reasons for a Referral to the School Social Work Clinician

The social worker provides support for issues that may hinder a student's success in school.

- Loss
- Conflict
- Mental health
- · Low sense of worth
- Low attendance and/or student is at risk of dropping out of school
- · Lack of positive connection
- Substance abuse
- violence

# **Procedures for School Referrals to Social Worker**

- 1. If a member of the school team feels that a student would benefit from social work services, they will consult with the school social worker to determine the appropriateness of a referral.
- 2. The resource teacher shall coordinate the referral process. The referral form should be completed collaboratively with the classroom teacher, resource teacher, and the school principal.
- 3. Referral forms should be completed in full and shall be signed by the resource teacher, principal, and parent(s)/guardian(s) prior to forwarding it to the student services coordinator for approval.
- 4. A final copy will be distributed to the school social worker.
- 5. The referral will be evaluated for priority and urgency of need, and services and support will be made available as soon as possible.

Page 2 of 2

Board Informed:	Last Reviewed:	Last Revision:
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