

CAPISTRANO UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT
San Juan Capistrano, California

SOCIAL WORKER

DEFINITION

Under the direction of an assigned administrator, the Social Worker provides professional support services that address social, emotional, and behavioral barriers to student success, focusing on foster youth, homeless, and at-risk students. This includes mental health services, case management, crisis intervention, and collaboration with educators, families, and community partners to foster positive educational outcomes. The role emphasizes creating a safe and supportive environment to enhance student well-being and academic performance.

EXAMPLES OF DUTIES

- Conduct individual and family assessments to identify social, emotional, and behavioral needs, particularly for foster youth and homeless students.
- Develop and implement intervention plans within a Multi-Tiered System of Support (MTSS) framework.
- Provide direct counseling services tailored to foster youth and homeless students, including individual and group sessions.
- Conduct risk assessments and crisis intervention, including safety planning and assisting crisis teams.
- Serve as a liaison among students, families, schools, and community agencies to coordinate services.
- Collaborate with school site teams to ensure foster youth and homeless students receive necessary academic and social-emotional support.
- Build relationships with county and community organizations to connect homeless and foster youth with essential resources, serving as a liaison between the school, families, and external agencies.
- Participate in Individualized Education Program (IEP) and 504 meetings as needed, focusing on students experiencing homelessness or foster care.
- Maintain accurate records and documentation, adhering to confidentiality laws.
- Deliver professional development for staff on topics such as trauma-informed practices and restorative justice.
- Advocate for students and families in accessing necessary resources.
- Conduct home visits to assess and address family dynamics impacting student success.
- Support district initiatives related to mental health and social-emotional learning.
- Facilitate parent workshops and community engagement initiatives.
- Coordinate with external partners to secure housing, food, mental health, and other essential services for students and their families.
- Assist in tracking attendance, behavior, addressing chronic absenteeism among foster youth and homeless students.
- Advocate for equitable access to educational and extracurricular opportunities for foster youth and homeless students.

- Maintain a variety of files and records pertaining to student counseling, guidance, and related matters.
- Assist with collecting and analyzing data for decision making and progress monitoring of the foster youth and homeless education program and other student support services activities.
- Participate in Medi-Cal billing processes by documenting eligible services, maintaining accurate records, and ensuring compliance with state and federal reimbursement guidelines.

QUALIFICATIONS

Knowledge of:

- Specialized needs and legal protections for foster youth and homeless students
- Community resources and programs tailored to assist foster and homeless populations
- School social work practices and evidence-based interventions
- Mental health and behavioral assessment techniques
- Relevant laws and policies, including McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act, FERPA, HIPAA, and child welfare regulations
- Cultural competence and working effectively with diverse populations.

Ability to:

- Provide trauma-informed care and interventions
- Establish trust and rapport with foster youth, homeless students, and their families
- Manage a diverse caseload with sensitivity to the unique challenges faced by foster and homeless populations
- Collaborate effectively with school personnel, families, and community organizations to coordinate services
- Analyze and address barriers to student success, focusing on foster and homeless students
- Communicate clearly in both oral and written forms
- Use technology to maintain records and prepare reports.

Experience: At least one year of professional experience in school-based mental health, social work, or community-based services is required. Prior experience working with diverse populations, including at-risk students, is preferred.

Education: Master's degree in Social Work (MSW) or a related field such as Counseling or Psychology.

Certification Requirement: Valid California Pupil Personnel Services Credential with authorization in School Social Work and/or Child Welfare and Attendance. Licensed Clinical Social Worker (LCSW) or eligibility for licensure preferred.

Other: Possession of a valid California Driver's License required.