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River Forest
Public Schools

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SOCIAL WORK SUPPORTS IN DISTRICT 90

January 22, 2019

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Current Service Data

SCHOOL	STUDENT ENROLLMENT	NUMBER OF SOCIAL WORKERS
Lincoln Elementary School	415	1
Willard Elementary School	381	1
Roosevelt Middle School	669	3

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Social Workers' Role in Special Education

- Provide social work services (group and/or individual) as mandated by students' Individualized Education Plans (IEP) or 504 Plans
- Participate in IEP meetings for all students on caseloads as well as those suspected of needing services
- Evaluating students: Provide social, emotional, behavioral, functional and adaptive assessments and completing social histories and social history updates
- Utilize assessment for the purpose of screening, diagnostics and progress monitoring
- Consult with general education and special education teachers to develop and implement pre-referral interventions
- Design and implement functional behavioral assessments and behavior intervention plans in collaboration with service team members

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Social Work and MtSS/RtI Supports

- Provide evidence-based (universal, targeted and intensive) education, behavior, and mental health services;
- Promote a school climate and culture conducive to student learning and teaching excellence
- Maximize access to school-based and community-based resources.
- Attending problem solving meetings

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Social Work and MtSS/RtI (Cont.)

Tier 1, universal services are part of a school-wide effort to promote mental and behavioral wellness and prevent mental and behavioral health problems for all students.

- Universal screening for academic, behavioral, and emotional barriers to learning to ensure early identification and early intervention
- Infusion of social-emotional learning into the classroom/curriculum
- Staff development related to identification of mental health concerns and referral processes
- Focus on creating a positive school climate

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Social Work and MtSS/RtI (Cont.)

Tier 2, targeted services address identified or emerging mental and behavioral health problems, prevent risky behaviors, and increase protective factors for students and their families. Examples of evidence based tactics:

- Individual/group counseling and skill building groups
- Development and monitoring of individual student behavior intervention plans
- Consultation with teachers and/or families to address mental and behavioral health problems

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Social Work and MtSS/RtI (Cont.)

Tier 3, intensive services focus on direct and indirect services to address identified mental and behavioral health problems. Examples of evidence-based Tier 3 services include:

- Direct therapeutic services to all students in need, including individual and group counseling, even in the absence of a clinical diagnosis or identified educational disability
- Psychological assessment of social, emotional, and behavioral problems
- Crisis intervention/crisis response
- Facilitation of collaboration between school professionals and community agencies and other outside mental and behavioral health providers

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Additional School/Community Supports

- Promote collaboration among community health, mental health and other service providers, and to facilitate easier access to services for students and families
- Provide professional development to staff
- Conduct crisis/risk assessments
- Social conflict support (mediation)
- Coordination of outside parents (for example, NAMI, Sarah's Inn)
- Parent Support Groups facilitated by social workers
- Holiday food and gift basket

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Role of the Social Worker:

School social workers help STUDENTS:

- Achieve maximum benefit from their educational opportunities
- Cope with stress
- Develop decision making skills
- Strengthening peer and adult relationships

School social workers help PARENTS:

- Participate effectively in their children's education
- Understand school policies, programs, and practice
- Understand and meet their children's social and emotional needs
- Connect parents to programs available to students with special needs
- Utilize school and community resources effectively

School social workers help SCHOOLS:

- Understand factors (cultural, societal, economic, familial, health, etc.) that affect students
- Utilize their resources in meeting the educational, social, and emotional needs of students
- Develop resources to adequately meet the needs of students and families
- Promote a safe school environment

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Common Themes for Student Support:

- Anxiety
- Suicidal Ideations
- Gender Identity Issues
- Home/Family Concerns
- Decision-making skills
- Child Abuse/Neglect
- Truancy
- School Refusal
- Self Harm
- Bereavement
- Cultural/Diversity
- Coping skills
- Substance Abuse
- Homelessness

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Additional Needs:

- Additional support for Tier 1 Universal
- Support for students who are not "scheduled"
- Promote trauma-sensitive school approaches

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Questions?

Thank You!

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