

**Sean Rhoads, Director of Student Services**

Center Cass School District 66

699 Plainfield Road

Downers Grove, IL 60516



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## Memo

To: Dr. Wise, Superintendent

From: Sean Rhoads, Director of Student Services

Date: October 8th, 2025

Re: Hiring of of the following:

- **Eli Stellwagen, Social Worker - Elizabeth Ide Elementary School**

I am pleased to recommend Eli Stellwagen for hire as the School Social Worker at Elizabeth Ide Elementary School. The recommendation follows the internal transfer of Mrs. Emily Crema, who has interviewed and accepted the open School Social Worker position at Lakeview Junior High School. Eli will fill the resulting vacancy at Elizabeth Ide Elementary.

Eli recently earned his Master of Social Work degree from the University of Illinois Chicago (UIC), where he also completed his Bachelor's degree in Sociology, graduating *Summa Cum Laude*. He holds a valid Professional Educator License (PEL) with a School Social Worker endorsement (PreK–Age 22), issued July 7, 2025, and registered through 2031.

Eli brings strong clinical and school-based experience through his internships with Chicago Public Schools and Gads Hill Center, where he provided individual and group sessions, collaborated on IEP and 504 teams, and implemented evidence-based social-emotional learning interventions. His supervisors consistently noted his professionalism, calm demeanor, and ability to connect with students, staff, and families. Eli demonstrates a strong commitment to equity, culturally responsive practices, and fostering inclusive environments that support the whole child.

Eli's academic excellence, interpersonal strengths, and alignment with the district's mission to challenge, inspire, and empower every learner make him an excellent addition to our Student Services team. Reference checks have been completed and confirm his preparedness and professionalism.

Pending Board of Education approval, I highly recommend Eli Stellwagen for hire as School Social Worker at Elizabeth Ide Elementary School for the 2025–2026 school year.