



ACSSW seeks to advance the practice of school social work by offering resources that support innovative practice, effective leadership, and applied research.

American Council For School Social Work

2018-19 ACSSW Annual Report

The American Council for School Social Work, a 501c6 national not-for-profit organization, was founded in June 2009 to bridge the gap between research and practice, with emphasis on strengthening leadership skills of school social workers. ACSSW advocates for the practice of school social work and supports school social workers in their service to students, schools, and families to overcome social, systemic, economic and mental health barriers to student learning. ACSSW actively supports the dissemination of evidence based practice, academic research surveys on school social work and related topics via the ACSSW website - www.acssw.org, the ACSSW weekly e-newsletter **SchoolSocialWorkNOW** and biannual professional development events.

Professional Development Events

ACSSW has conducted 14 professional development events since 2010:

*Advancing the Practice National Institutes - 2012 - 2015, 2017 & 2018
Tulane University, New Orleans*

Mental Health in Schools Institutes - 2013 - 2017 - UW-Milwaukee

Research to Practice Summits - 2010 - 2012 - Bloomingdale, Illinois

ACSSW professional events are designed to be highly interactive and are focused on current practice trends and needs. Designed to help bridge the gap between research and practice, ACSSW events feature leading researchers and practitioners in the field of school social work and related mental health professions.

2018 - 20 ACSSW Professional Events

October 1st, 2018 - Mental Health in Schools Institute • UW-Milwaukee

*January 28 - 30, 2019 - Advancing the Practice National Institutes
Grand Challenges for Social Work • Tulane University • New Orleans*

October 2019 - Mental Health in Schools Institute • UW-Milwaukee

*January 27 - 29, 2020 - Advancing the Practice National Institute
University of Memphis*

National Projects

ACSSW is currently engaged in the following activities:

- *School Social Work Leadership Initiative*
- *Specialized Instructional Support Personnel Shortages*
- *University Outreach - Project Connect*
- *Mental Health Awareness Campaign*
- *Promotion of Trauma Informed Care*
- *Suicide Prevention & Crisis Preparedness*
- *Grand Challenges for Social Work Initiative*



ACSSW





Communication...

Since 2010 ACSSW has issued over 300 comprehensive weekly e-newsletters **SchoolSocialWorkNOW**, containing resource links, topical articles, job openings, grants and funding opportunities, & more. With a readership of over 3,000, ACSSW offers **SchoolSocialWorkNOW** for free limited time introductory subscriptions: www.acssw.org - **Get Connected!**

Leadership/Advocacy...

ACSSW actively engages with national organizations and legislative activities.

Federal Legislation

Monitors and responds to legislation affecting pupil services, children and families and education.

Title IV-A Coalition

Engages with and supports the Title IV-A Coalition, an alliance comprised of more than 60 national organizations working together to advocate for maximum funding of the flexible block grant (Student Support and Academic Enrichment – SSAE). SSAE is authorized at \$1.6 billion for FY 2018 under Title IV, part A of the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA). The Coalition believes that if fully funded and administered the way Congress intended under ESSA, the SSAE grant program has the potential to adequately support school districts in their central mission of providing our students with the skills, resources, and support they need to succeed.

University of Maryland Center for School Mental Health

Lead Facilitator for the Education-Mental Health Integration & Collaboration Track and Proposal Reviews, respectively. Co-presents conference sessions regarding pupil services. Assisted the development of a *Dialogue Guide on Pupil Services* and webinar on cultural responsiveness. Serves on the CSMH Advisory Board on School Mental Health.

National Alliance of Specialized Instructional Support Personnel

Member of NASISP promoting the work and voice of school social work while supporting and collaborating with related professions.



ACSSW MISSION

ACSSW advocates for the practice of school social work and supports school social workers in their service to students, schools, and families to overcome social, systemic, economic and mental health barriers to student learning.

ACSSW VISION

ACSSW seeks to advance the practice of school social work by offering resources that support innovative practice, effective leadership, and applied research.

University of Southern California Dworak-Peck School of Social Work

Supports USC efforts to increase awareness and access to training in Psychological First Aid & Trauma Informed Care.

Coalition to Support Grieving Students

Supporting Organizational Member of this nationally recognized Coalition. ACSSW actively promotes and participates in the work of the Coalition to inform school social workers, educators, administrators & parents about Grief Sensitive Schools (www.grievingstudents.org).

Critical Questions...

As ACSSW pursues its mission, critical questions have been put forth during ACSSW professional events in an effort to engage the national community of school social work practitioners, researchers and leaders to address key issues facing the profession. For example...

What is 'leadership' in school social work? How can SSWers improve their presence as leaders in schools and active involvement in current national educational initiatives (Grief Sensitive Schools, PBIS, P16/20, school behavioral health)? How is the influx of charter schools affecting the practice of school social work? What roles and/or skills are unique to school social workers in comparison to other pupil services professions? How can school social workers articulate the value of their practice to critical decision makers?



www.SchoolSocialWorkNOW.org
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Visit www.acssw.org to access multiple professional resources on School Social Work