



School Social Work Association of America
Resolution Statement

FEDERAL EDUCATION FUNDING PRIORITIES

The School Social Work Association of America believes that a quality education for each of the nation's children should be a major priority for the federal government. In order to provide a quality education to each child, the federal government must significantly increase its investment in public education. This includes a strong commitment to programs aimed at enhancing the social and emotional strength of students, a factor critical to achieving academic success. School social workers are an integral part of the school team helping students achieve positive academic and social outcomes.

Federal education programs are targeted to address the needs of specific student populations, including disadvantaged, disabled, limited English proficient, neglected, migrant, and homeless youth. SSWAA believes that targeting resources to these populations provides the best opportunity for all students to meet high academic expectations.

SSWAA urges Congress to substantially increase funding and expand programming for school social work services through the Elementary and Secondary Education Act, including the Elementary School Counseling Demonstration Act and the Safe and Drug-Free Schools and Communities Act. SSWAA also supports full funding of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, providing educational opportunities for students with disabilities.

These federal education programs provide critical funding to local school districts to hire additional school social workers. School social workers not only provide direct services to students, but also provide consultative and support services to staff. School districts also use these funds to offer professional development opportunities for school social workers to enhance their capacity to address the broad range of student needs. A strong federal investment in school social work services will strengthen linkages among schools, families, and communities to help students overcome barriers to learning and achievement.

School Social Work Association of America (2001). Federal Education Funding Priorities.

Approved by the SSWAA Board of Directors on May 1, 2001.
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