



SCHOOL-BASED PSYCHIATRIC SOCIAL WORKERS (PSWs)

improve outcomes for all students and support whole families and school communities

Research indicates that children and school communities benefit from receiving school-based mental health services in the following ways:

- Higher GPA
- Increased standardized test scores
- Decreased incidences of suspension and expulsion
- Increased high school graduation rates
- Decreased involvement with the juvenile justice system
- Decreased absenteeism
- Increased ability to successfully cope with problems, crises, or traumatic experiences
- Increased parent/guardian, family, and community engagement
- Improved school climate

School-Based PSWs..

- **Collaborate with teachers to support core instructional services** in order to increase academic engaged time
- **Provide individual, group & family therapy**, including evidence-based mental health interventions that address barriers to learning and achievement
- **Build positive school climate** using a trauma-informed lens through the following: school-wide and classroom trainings, activities and presentations on violence prevention; empathy, social and coping skill building; mental health awareness; anti-bullying and more
- **Educate and train parents/guardians, family members and caregivers** to decrease barriers to learning and increase social-emotional competence
- **Offer professional development opportunities** on topics such as Psychological First Aid; Staff Wellness and Self Care; Trauma-Informed Schools; Crisis Preparedness, Response, and Recovery
- **Conduct student risk assessments and provide appropriate safety planning** for students; presenting with suicidal, self-injurious, and threat-related behaviors
- **Provide linkage to school and community supports and resources**, including case management
- **Deliver crisis response/intervention services**
- **Provide a mental health perspective** as active members of **mandatory school-site multi-disciplinary teams** such as the Student Support and Progress Team, Safe School Plan Team, School-Site Crisis Team and Threat Assessment Team

“ I don’t know how any school could do without a PSW. ”

– LD East Elementary School Principal



“ Having a Psychiatric Social Worker on site is a blessing. **The amount of money allocated to the position has paid for itself in a number of ways.** ”

– LD Northwest High School Principal

For School Mental Health Administration, please contact:

Pia Escudero, Director (213) 241-3841 or pia.escudero@lausd.net or

Cecilia Ramos, Assistant Director (213) 241-3841 or cecilia.ramos@lausd.net.

achieve.lausd.net/smh



SCHOOL MENTAL HEALTH MISSION: Promote the mental health, well-being and academic achievement of all LAUSD students.

As of January 2017, School Mental Health has 123 School-Based PSWs in the following school settings and programs throughout LAUSD.

- Elementary, Middle and High Schools
- SPAN Schools
- Continuation Schools and Independent Study Programs
- Primary Centers

“ There are so many times we have needed her expertise in working with our very needy behavior incidents. Our teachers and parents seek our PSW for the small issues and very prominent issues. **We could not do our job without the help of our PSW.** ”

– LD Northwest Elementary School Principal

“ Our PSW conducts counseling for targeted individuals and groups of students identified on campus. Through these counseling sessions **I have seen tremendous improvement in students behavior and academic performance.** ”

– LD South Elementary School Principal

For information about funding PSW services for your school, please contact the Local District School Mental Health Field Coordinator.

Local District	School Mental Health Field Coordinator
Northeast	Martha Marquez (818) 252-5417 martha.marquez@lausd.net
Northwest	Elena Jimenez (818) 654-3652 elena.jimenez@lausd.net
South	Karen Wallace (310) 354-3478 karen.wallace@lausd.net
East	Lorena Valencia (323) 224-3363 lxv9321@lausd.net
West	Kezia Miller (310) 914-2182 kezia.miller@lausd.net
Central	Maria Chua (213) 241-2612 maria.chua@lausd.net

“ I value our PSW as a crucial part of our school and know that many of our students are achieving academic success, a high school diploma, and a chance to attend college because of the support of our PSW and her interns. ”

– LD South High School principal