

SCHOOL SOCIAL WORKER

DISTINGUISHING FEATURES OF THE CLASS: The work involves responsibility for providing social work services for the prevention of substance abuse and early-intervention for young people in the school community. This position requires the performance of social work in helping young people with social, emotional and related difficulties associated with prevention practices. Employees in this class are expected to confer with professionals or agencies in or outside of the facility to obtain assistance and guidance for students. Duties are performed under general supervision of the Superintendent of School and School Principals. The incumbent does related work as required.

TYPICAL WORK ACTIVITIES: (Illustrative only)

Establishes rapport and promotes trust, enabling students to view counseling as a means to overcome their problems;

Introduces and encourages the adoption of positive behavior modifications;

Provides crisis intervention and emergency supportive services as needed;

Employs various techniques in broadening individual awareness and promoting sound approaches to stress encountered;

Receives instructions and directions on problems being encountered with students;

Advises Principals and teachers as to the status of students, noting approaches employed;

Participates adjunctively with school staff in prevention efforts in school and community; attends various school and community meetings;

Uses computer applications or other automated systems such as spreadsheets, word processing, calendar, email and database software in performing work assignments;

Other related duties as assigned.

FULL PERFORMANCE KNOWLEDGE, SKILLS, ABILITIES AND PERSONAL CHARACTERISTICS:

Good knowledge of adolescent development issues and family dynamics and functioning; good knowledge of substance abuse prevention concepts, and the philosophy and rationale of prevention work; good knowledge of modern therapeutic methods; theories and practices of social case work; general knowledge of issues related to substance abuse; working knowledge of psychology, personality, group dynamics and the application; working knowledge of social services and other agencies to who students may be referred including treatment programs, therapeutic centers and employment/educational opportunities; ability to use computer applications; ability to communicate and collaborate effectively with others, both verbally and in writing; ability to listen; ability to motivate students in adopting positive values and behavioral patterns; emotional maturity; sound judgement; physical condition commensurate with the demands of the position.

MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS: Either:

- a) Graduation from a regionally accredited or New York State registered college or university with a Master's Degree in Social Work, Psychology or Counseling; or
- b) Graduation from a regionally accredited or New York State registered college or university with a Bachelors Degree in Social Work and two years of full-time paid social work experience; or
- c) An equivalent combination of training and experience as defined by the limits of (a) and (b) acceptable to the New York State Health Department.

NOTE: In accordance with the Safe School Against Violence in education (SAVE) legislation, Chapter 180 of the Laws of 2000, and by the Regulations of the Commissioner of Education, candidates for appointment in school districts must obtain clearance for employment from the State Education Department prior to employment based upon fingerprint and criminal history background check.