

SCHOOL PSYCHOLOGISTS

Teachers and Staff

Student services staff help schools, districts, colleges of education, postsecondary institutions, and state agencies to develop highly effective teachers and staff by participating in the following:

- Collaborating with teachers and others on learning strategies as well as interventions for social, emotional, and behavioral problems
- Conducting staff development activities for personnel involved in exceptional student education
- Mentoring interns and new hires in the student services professions
- Providing health education for teachers, staff, and administrators
- Sharing with colleagues and other educators relevant research and resources from the counseling, social work, psychology, and nursing professions.



Learning Environment

Student services staff provide the following services to help school districts offer educational programs that are based on student performance data and that improve learning for all students:

- Consulting with teachers, administrators, parents, and others about students who are experiencing behavioral, emotional, or learning problems
- Providing staff development activities on assessment, learning styles, problem-solving, and student test-taking skills
- Providing social skills development strategies for teachers
- Teaching anger management, conflict resolution, and social skills to students
- Investigating student attendance problems and providing follow-up services.

SCHOOL COUNSELORS

For more information contact the director of student services at your local school district office or the Student Support Services Project office at the Florida Department of Education, (850) 922-3727, or visit <http://sss.usf.edu>.



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Florida Department of Education
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STUDENT SUPPORT SERVICES



*Supporting Student
Achievement
in Florida's
Public Schools*

SCHOOL NURSES

SCHOOL SOCIAL WORKERS

Simply being in school does not guarantee that a student will learn. For learning to take place, students need to feel safe. They need effective classroom instruction, interested parents who are involved in their education, and support and encouragement while at school. Student services professionals—school counselors, school nurses, school social workers, and school psychologists—help to support learning in numerous areas. Serving as student advocates, they work with students, school personnel, families, and the community to help students succeed in school and personal endeavors. Here are some of the ways they help children succeed, from prekindergarten through high school and beyond.



School Readiness

Student services professionals provide the following services and programs to prepare children and their families for success in school:

- Assisting students in adjusting to school
- Reviewing health records
- Coordinating and offering screenings (vision, hearing, scoliosis)
- Referring children to in-school and community service programs
- Offering prevention counseling and education
- Assessing children with learning and developmental delays to determine individual needs for specialized educational interventions
- Helping children develop social skills.

Student Achievement

Student services professionals are available to assist students in acquiring the knowledge, skills, and competencies needed to master the Sunshine State Standards; successfully compete at the highest levels nationally and internationally; and be prepared to make well-reasoned, thoughtful, and healthy lifelong decisions by:

- Facilitating communication through parent/student/staff conferences
- Implementing tutoring and mentoring programs
- Helping students learn study and test-taking skills
- Using assessments to identify strengths and weaknesses for academic improvement plans (AIP), individual educational plans (IEP), and remedial activities
- Implementing progress-monitoring strategies
- Facilitating problem-solving teams in schools
- Supporting attainment of grade level reading skills consistent with the goals of *Just Read Florida!* (www.myflorida.com/jrf)
- Performing assessments, screenings, and referrals as appropriate
- Implementing effective strategies to improve student attendance and academically engaged time
- Developing and implementing effective interventions to improve student achievement.

Graduation and Preparation for Postsecondary Education and Employment

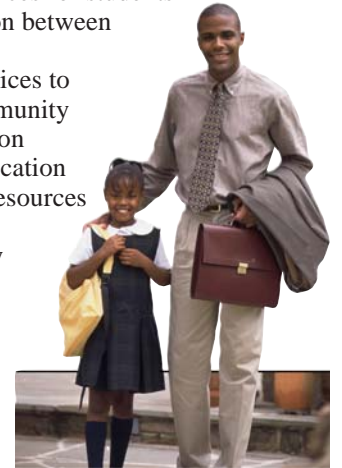
Student services professionals engage in the following activities to support students in graduating and being prepared to enter the workforce and postsecondary education:

- Providing students and parents with information about post-secondary schools and financial aid
- Supporting a rigorous academic curriculum advising program for all students
- Using assessment data to help students plan for postsecondary education
- Providing career mentoring opportunities
- Responding to academic, career, personal, and social concerns of students.

Parental, Family, and Community Involvement

Student services professionals help communities, school districts, and schools offer opportunities for parents, families, guardians, and other community stakeholders to be involved by:

- Obtaining information and resources for students and parents by serving as a liaison between school, home, and community
- Providing case management services to students and families in the community
- Providing parents with information about local adult/community education programs and community/state resources
- Providing parents with resource information that promotes family literacy
- Consulting with parents in the English for Speakers of Other Languages Program (ESOL).



School Safety and Environment

Student services professionals contribute the following services to actively support communities and schools in providing an environment that is drug-free and protects students' health, safety, and civil rights:

- Facilitating and contributing to the development of school-wide discipline plans
- Providing crisis prevention and intervention services
- Supporting character education through classroom instruction and small group activities
- Helping students enhance their problem-solving skills
- Giving students opportunities to learn positive strategies to promote personal safety and self-responsibility
- Enhancing students' self-esteem and positive social behaviors
- Participating on school safety committees.