**Happy School Social Workers Week**

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Greeting School Social Workers,

While March is observed as Social Work Month, March 1st – 7th is designated as School Social Worker Week! Through my association with the Florida Association of School Social Workers (FASSW) I’ve had an opportunity to meet school social workers from school districts throughout the state. I’ve also received an eye opening lesson as to the role school social workers play in those various school districts and how school social work services work from school district to school district.

Although our primary objective: “School social workers services strive to enhance their school district’s mission by providing services which strengthen home, school, and community partnerships. School social workers actively address barriers that interfere with student achievement by bringing people together while creating an environment that is conducive to effective problem solving and learning. The goal of each school social worker is to provide every student with the opportunity to develop to his or her maximum potential”, is similar throughout the state, the implementation of these services vary greatly district to district.

School social worker provides [counseling](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Counseling) and psycho-social services to students in schools at both micro and macro levels. We work as mental health experts, leaders of social and emotional development within the school community, family-school liaisons, and program development experts. We aim to address student issues by working with an ecological, systems approach with parents, the school, and the community. We also work with [crisis intervention](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Crisis_intervention), group treatment, [child neglect](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Child_neglect) and [abuse](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Child_abuse) identification and reporting, integrating services to culturally and economically diverse populations, and working on [education policy](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Education_policy) issues.

Since 1942 FASSW has supported Florida School Social Workers as they navigate school district systems in their endeavors to assist students and families. On behalf of the 2019 – 2021 FASSW Executive Board, THANK YOU for your compassion, dedication, knowledge, professionalism, resourcefulness, problem solving skills, mediating prowess and leadership.

Enjoy your week,

Lynette Judge, MSW

FASSW, President

 