



Social Work Services

The mission underlying the provision of Social Work services at Thornton Academy is to support, develop, and assist in the implementation of student services, and the goals and objectives of the school by providing support to students and staff in the area of social/emotional health, as it relates to students' overall well-being and academic progression.

This is accomplished by:

- identifying the needs and barriers of individuals, small groups, and the school community
- providing short-term solution focused counseling
- assisting students in developing skills needed for their personal growth and development
- collaborating with internal & external supports, including but not limited to teachers, guidance counselors, school nurses, and deans
- providing case management referrals and collaboration with school based and community resources and support
- fostering communication between and among all constituents, both in and outside of school
- providing relevant education and training

The School Social workers are licensed mental health professionals who:

- operate under the Thornton Academy Student Services Team umbrella
- balance overlapping roles within the school, with various expectations, responsibilities, and obligations
- participate in milieu work including classroom observation, support within the classroom, and/or providing education
- refer students to higher level of support and/or treatment when indicated
- provide crisis assessment and intervention
- connect students and families to community resources
- function as a service provider for students who receive special education services via an individual plan
- provide substance use assessment to students

Confidentiality is an underlying principle of school social work. However, at times it may be necessary for the school social worker to share confidential information that is relevant to the educational needs of the student. This information is specific to academics and/or affects the social-emotional well-being of the student. Information is not shared with outside providers without a signed release from a parent/guardian. It is the preference of the school to inform parents of social work support for individual students.

Exceptions to these rules of confidentiality involve:

- safety concerns (e.g., someone is a danger to themselves, a danger to others and/or someone is endangering a child)
- well-being concerns of a student

In addition, there may be acknowledgement of a student accessing school social work in the student information system.