



The Children's School · K - 8

School Social Worker for grades K-8

Salary: starting \$60K plus benefits

Hours: 8:00 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. school days plus attendance at weekly faculty meetings, periodic Institute Days and parent-teacher conferences, team meetings, and some school events that take place outside school hours

School year: August 19, 2024 - June 5, 2025

At *The Children's School*, you'll be part of a community of open-minded educators who are passionate about progressive education and what it offers children and families. We're all here because we believe in child-centered, hands-on learning that nurtures students' academic, social, and emotional selves. We are committed to justice-oriented teaching and learning within an equitable, democratic community. We enjoy teaching in an environment free of grades and standardized testing. We work closely with colleagues and with students themselves to co-create curriculum relevant to students' lives.

As a School Social Worker at The Children's School, you will enjoy a high level of autonomy while also working closely with colleagues and administration, with a primary purpose of providing experience and guidance in individual, family and group counseling, psychoeducation, skills, and social-emotional group programming, crisis prevention and intervention, and case management/referral in a school setting. The School Social Worker at TCS interacts with the general school population in a vast array of engagements and opportunities, however a large function of their role is to serve students whose social and emotional difficulties interfere with their capacity to function adequately as a student. . The School Social Worker is supervised by the Head of School.

We are looking for team members who will emanate optimism, share feedback to solve problems, reflect on how your actions impact others, and take ownership over creating the culture you want to show up to each day.

We believe that education is stronger and better when teachers' identities mirror the full diversity of human experience. Hence, we strongly encourage applications from people of color, LGBTQIA+ persons, and members of other marginalized communities.

Essential Job Functions

- Conducts psychosocial and risk assessments as well as developmental histories. Assess students for substance use or abuse, support systems, physical and also emotional functioning, addressing barriers to academic performance, student adjustment, peer pressure problems, disordered eating, suicidal or homicidal thoughts, and other similar issues.
- Develops and implements short-term treatment options developed to support student self-determination and autonomy.
- Provides evidence-based individual and/or group counseling and early intervention services for students having difficulties with academic progress including but not limited to mental health, trauma awareness, neurodiversity, social skills, bullying, grief/loss, anger management, conflict resolution (with a focus on restorative justice frameworks), peer mediation, motivation, life transitions/graduation, alongside other social emotional issues that impact learning.
- Provides support and brief counseling to families.
- Conducts developmentally sensitive, inclusive, and appropriate classroom instruction in accordance with the Comprehensive Health Education Act (Erin's Law). Facilitates annual presentation for faculty and TCS families. Reviews Erin's Law programming and curriculum annually.
- Leads in the collaboration between the school, TCS families, and community agencies, collaborating and referring out and following up with referrals and treatment outcomes. Maintains and updates on a regular basis TCS's external referral network. Establishes and connects with community partners to provide continuity of care alongside as-needed referrals and case management.
- Participates in Building Intervention Team, 504 and Individual Education Plan (IEP) meetings as needed and assists in the development of interventions in which school social work services are appropriate. Provides services and accommodations in accordance with student learning plans, IEPs & 504 plans, documenting goals and progress.
- Attends and participates in committee and faculty meetings.
- Provides classroom presentations, workshops, and in-service education to students, staff and parents.

- Provides support to teachers through classroom observation, modeling, and consultation.
- Serves as an advocate for students' rights within the school.
- Follows intentional and structured processes to provide needed supports to transgender, nonbinary, and gender nonconforming students.
- Ongoing commitment to uphold and enact anti-racist and anti-oppressive practices, promoting equity, inclusivity and to helping create a supportive and equitable school environment.
- Continues with the ongoing creation and implementation of SEL, skills development, and mental health based curriculums, facilitating groups and classroom programming as needed.
- Collaborates in the ongoing development of social work program policies and procedures.
- Acts in their capacity and obligation as a Mandated Reporter on all issues of abuse and neglect.
- Leads and assists in assessing crisis situations, helping others on the team identify potential solutions, identifying resources that may be helpful in problem resolution, developing plans, and engaging in de-escalation and intervention strategies for the resolution of the crisis.
- Develops and implements school-wide programming focuses on prevention, intervention, and postvention.
- Attends relevant professional development, seminars, workshops, and training.
- Possesses working knowledge of the principals, practices and ethical standards of School Social Work; the relevant state and federal laws, rules and regulations. Follows the standards of both SSWAA and NASW.
- Maintains an atmosphere that protects the privacy of confidential information pertaining to students and families, maintaining social work records and documentation, in accordance with local, state, and federal laws and regulations.
- Conducts annual auditing and review of social work records, as well as reviewing social work documentation systems to ensure ethical and legal standards and obligations are met/exceeded.
- Establishes and implements systems for data collection to assess utilization and efficacy of social work services.
- Work closely with teachers and administrators in a highly collaborative setting, providing faculty with essential information to help them better understand factors guiding a student's performance, engagement, and behavior.

- Occasionally will include stepping into teaching roles and supervising students as needed.
- Other duties as needed.

Qualifications:

- Experience working with students K-8.
- Commitment to and understanding of progressive educational principles such as child-centered teaching and learning.
- Strong interpersonal skills with the ability to communicate and work effectively as a team member, and facilitate and maintain working relationships with students, parents-caregivers, and colleagues.
- MSW or equivalent degree.
- LSW or equivalent license.
- LCSW or equivalent license (preferred but not required).
- Professional Educator License (PEL) with School Social Work Endorsement in Illinois (preferred but not required).
- DEIB and restorative justice expertise a plus.
- Experience working with exceptional learners, mood and behavioral disorders, and neurodiversity.

Note: This job description is not intended to be all-inclusive. Employee may perform other related duties as negotiated to meet the ongoing needs of the organization.

Non-Discrimination Policy

The Children's School admits students of any race, color, and national and ethnic origin to all the rights, privileges, programs, and activities accorded or made available to students at the school. The Children's School does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, religion, or national or ethnic origin in administration of its educational policies, hiring policies, admissions policies, financial aid program, or any other school-administered programs.

To learn more about TCS, visit: **www.TheChildrensSchool.info**

If interested in applying, please send a resume and cover letter to employment@tcsconnect.org.

Process will include screening interview (Zoom) with TCS Head of School and Hiring Team, visit to TCS, and in-person interview with Hiring Team.