



Helping kids succeed in school and life for over 40 years!

MSSWA

MINNESOTA SCHOOL SOCIAL WORKERS ASSOCIATION



Testimony to the Minnesota Senate Education Committee

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The State of Student Mental Health

Minnesota's Students are Struggling

- Increased Behavioral Issues
- Chronic Absenteeism
- Suicidal Ideation and Crisis
Situations

The Complexities of Attendance

Mental Health is at The Core of Poor Attendance

- Anxiety and School Avoidance
- Depression and Lack of Motivation
- Trauma and Family challenges
- Bullying and Social Isolation
- Mental Health Crisis Situations

Why School Social Workers are Essential to Addressing Attendance

Providing the RIGHT supports:

- Early Intervention and Mental Health Support
- Collaboration with Families
- Crisis Response and Re-Engagement
- Building School-Wide Mental Health Supports

The Gaps in Mental Health Services

The Mental Health System is Struggling

- Shortage of Providers
- Lack of Treatment Facilities
- Barriers to Access

A Call for Action: Partnering for Solutions

There are Solutions!

- Increase Funding for School-Based Mental Health Services
- Expand Access to Mental Health Treatment and Support
- Create Policies to Address Chronic Absenteeism
- Invest in Prevention and Early Intervention

The Mental Health Crisis A Minnesota Issue

Thank you!

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