

Serving the students and families in south central Indianapolis is what Perry Township Schools is all about. PTS has a strong, ongoing commitment to providing support to each and every student and staff member as we all work to constantly improve. One of the ways that Perry Township Schools, under the leadership of Superintendent Pat Mapes, has shown dedication to student support is by the growth of the School Social Worker cadre in the district.

Perry Township Schools serves nearly 17,000 students in 23 schools. Our accomplished and dedicated administrators and teacher leaders, talented and highly-trained teachers and support staff all focus on doing what is right -- supporting our students. In Perry Township Schools, #wegrowkids.

We now have 13 School Social Workers in our district. One at each high school, one at each middle school and sixth grade academy, and nine to support our elementary schools and kindergarten academies. These professionals work with the principals and the Director of Student Services to support students through opportunities like groups, lessons on important safety and social-emotional topics, and regular connection with students and families experiencing homelessness. They also intervene with significant attendance concerns, connect families to resources in the community, and facilitate assistance to students throughout the year. The School Social Workers serve on the Social Emotional Learning Committees at each school and are leaders in providing ongoing education to staff in ways to better support students and families in our township.

As the Director of Student Services, I am privileged to encourage and support the School Social Workers every day. I see the impact of their work in our schools. They know the importance of creating and maintaining relationships with our students so that our students can be successful! I watched one SSW spend time listening to a 2nd grader who was struggling to focus in class. He came to her office and within a few minutes, she was able to help him get emotionally regulated, recognize some strategies to use that might help him in class, and return to the classroom. I have listened to a social worker as she thoughtfully and patiently explained to a support staff member about why students who are experiencing homelessness are afforded support like transportation and academic tutoring, if they need it. One of our social workers runs a food pantry in the school and helps facilitate getting nutritious back sacks to students who need it in our district. Another has helped a homeless college-bound student complete an application for school and the financial aid forms that go with it. I have gone with School Social Workers to court appearances where they have served as witnesses to support children.

We are working to create systems of support throughout our district, using the talents, passions and skills of our School Social Workers as well as our School Counselors and incredible teaching staff to help make sure that all of our students are able to achieve and grow.

Our School Social Workers in Perry Township make a difference for our students and our schools every day. They work with the schools as they support students. They bring their specialized training to our educational setting and help all of us do what is right by kids.

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