

Kelly Cash is the Project AWARE Director for Perry Central Schools and a veteran School Social Worker. She shares her perspective on the importance of the role of School Social Work as an integral part of developing a comprehensive SEL/School Mental Health support system at Perry Central. In addition, she includes some of her favorite links to resources that she has found in her role as a School Social Worker.

In recognition of school social work week, I would like to highlight some of the reasons school social workers are so important to students and families. School social workers are instrumental in furthering the mission of the schools which is to provide a setting for teaching, learning, and for the attainment of competence and confidence. We depend on our social workers to help provide counseling services and/or referrals to outside services. I have been at Perry Central for almost 17 years, 15 as a school social worker. The past two years I have been the Project AWARE Director, focusing on getting mental health services in school. We are so fortunate to have social workers in our school who care about students' mental health and well-being. Our social workers bring a unique knowledge and skill set to the school system and student service team. Project AWARE has given us the ability to focus and expand on these services. Resources that we often refer to are as follows: consciousdiscipline.com, casel.org, insidesel.com

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