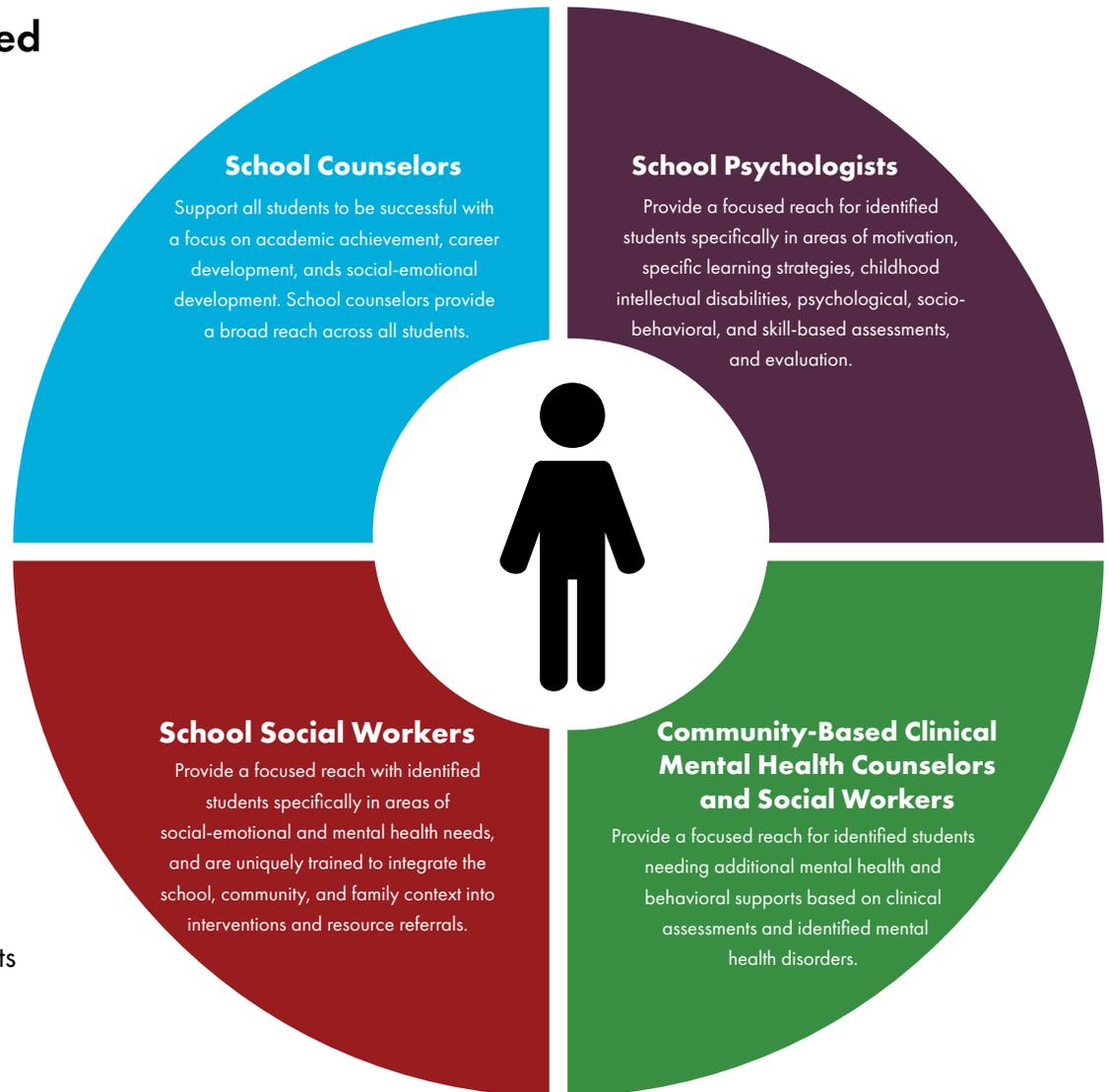


Overview of School-Based Mental Health Providers in South Dakota

Providing for the Well-Being of the Whole Child

Who are school-based mental health providers?

School-based mental health providers support each other while bringing unique training and expertise to address the academic, career, and social-emotional and behavioral needs of K-12 students. Although each provider plays a specialized role to meet the needs of students, some supports may overlap to cultivate the overall well-being of the whole child. These professionals ensure equitable access to their supports so that all students can learn, thrive, and grow.



Resources

General Information:

- [What is a Counselor?](#)
- [Who Are School Counselors?](#)
- [Who Are School Psychologists?](#)
- [School Social Workers' Role in Addressing Students' Mental Health Needs and Increasing Academic Achievement](#)
- [ESSA Definition of School-Based Mental Health Services Providers \(Sec. 4102. Definitions \(6\)\)](#)

Certification & Licensure:

- [Community Mental Health Centers Staff Credentials \(ARSD 67:62:06:03\)](#)
- [Department of Education School Counselor Certification](#)
- [Board of Examiners for Counselors & Marriage and Family Therapists](#)
- [Board of Social Work Examiners](#)
- [School Psychologist Endorsement Requirements \(ARSD 24:28:27:03\)](#)

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School-Based Mental Health Providers in South Dakota

School Counselors

Unique Role in School

Support all students to be successful with a focus on academic achievement, career development, and social-emotional development. School counselors provide a broad reach across all students.

Training

Master's degree in school counseling
OR

Master's degree or higher in counseling with one year of supervision by a Mentor School Counselor and must pass the state-designated school counselor test

Certified by the Department of Education

Academic Support

Provide classroom lessons, small group counseling, and individual planning to remove a variety of barriers to learning through direct support to help all students develop skills and behaviors critical to academic success. Collaborate, consult and provide data for teachers, families, and administration to support classroom success.

Career Support

Provide career awareness, exploration, and preparation opportunities to assist all students through the K-12 career planning process. Utilize classroom lessons, small group counseling, and individual planning to assist students to form postsecondary and career goals, build a plan to meet goals, foster skill-building, and assess student abilities and interests.

Social-Emotional & Behavioral Support

Utilize a broad focus impacting all students. Provide short-term counseling through helping students develop skills and behaviors needed for social-emotional wellness through classroom lessons, small group counseling, and individual planning. Provide short-term counseling and crisis intervention. Refer students to specialized professionals for intensive needs and long-term counseling.

Recommended Provider-to-Individual Ratio

1:250

Consider that school counselors work with all students in schools at one district.

School Psychologists

Unique Role in School

Provide a focused reach for identified students specifically in areas of motivation, specific learning strategies, childhood intellectual disabilities, psychological, socio-behavioral, and skill-based assessments, and evaluation.

Training

Education Specialist degree in school psychology

Certified by the Department of Education

Academic Support

Provide small group and individual planning to remove a variety of barriers to learning through direct support to help identified students develop skills and behaviors critical to academic success. Collaborate, consult, and provide data for teachers, families, and administration to support classroom success.

Career Support

Provide career development to identified students. Assess student abilities and social skills to assist in future career planning for specialized career and postsecondary services (i.e., vocational rehabilitation, specialized college supports).

Social-Emotional & Behavioral Support

Specialized professional to conduct risk and threat assessments and crisis intervention in individual and small group settings. Receive referrals from other professionals to assist students in need of mental health support. May also refer students to receive further specialized support.

Recommended Provider-to-Individual Ratio

1:500

Consider that school psychologists work with small groups and individuals and ideally serve one district but may serve multiple school districts.

School Social Workers

Unique Role in School

Provide a focused reach with identified students specifically in areas of social-emotional and mental health needs, and are uniquely trained to integrate the school, community, and family context into interventions and resource referrals.

Training

Master's degree in Social Work (MSW)

In rare cases should the local education agency employ school social workers with a Bachelor's Degree in Social Work, an MSW-level social worker must provide supervision.

AND

Must pass the national Association of Social Work Boards (ASWB) examination.

Licensed by the Board of Social Work Examiners

Academic Support

Provide schoolwide, small group and individual support to identified students to reduce barriers to learning using interventions to improve overall student functioning, collaborate, consult, and provide data for teachers, families, and administration to support classroom success

Career Support

Provide schoolwide, small group, and individual social-emotional learning focused on skill-building to foster resiliency and job preparedness. Provide students and parents with community linkages and resources to support successful school and work transitions.

Social-Emotional & Behavioral Support

Specialized professional to provide schoolwide, small group and individual social-emotional, mental health & behavioral interventions. Conduct risk and threat assessment & provide a continuum of crisis management supports. Maximize school-based and community resources to meet student needs. May also refer students to receive further specialized support.

Recommended Provider-to-Individual Ratio

1:250

Consider that school social workers work with classrooms, small groups, individuals and families; ideally serve one district but may serve multiple districts

Community-Based Clinical Mental Health Counselors and Social Workers

Unique Role in School

Provide a focused reach for identified students needing additional mental health and behavioral supports based on clinical assessments and identified mental health disorders.

Training

Clinical Mental Health Counselors:

- Master's or doctorate degree in counseling
- Licensed by the Board of Examiners for Counselors & Marriage and Family Therapists

Clinical Mental Health Social Workers:

- Master's or doctorate degree in social work
- Licensed by the Board of Social Work Examiners

Clinicians from community mental health centers meet training and supervision requirements established by the Department of Social Services.

Academic Support

Provide individual student support to interact and intervene with students experiencing mental health crises, therefore leading to improved academic outcomes. Collaborate and consult with school counselors and families to support classroom success through building awareness of mental health.

Career Support

Provide support to identified students to be physically and mentally healthy, so they can leave their primary and secondary education ready to address further education and career goals.

Social-Emotional & Behavioral Support

Specialized professional to provide short-term and long-term individual and small-group counseling. Typically, students are referred by other professionals for social-emotional and behavioral support, such as interventions for students on an IEP. Trained to address deep-seeded issues such as co-occurring disorders, trauma or chronic distress, life changing transitions, or other significant impairments to daily functioning. May refer students to receive further mental health or medical support.

Recommended Provider-to-Individual Ratio

Not Applicable

Consider that each clinical mental health provider working through a public or private funded agency will be serving clients and districts, and providing individual and small group counseling to students with intensive needs with caseloads up to approximately 50 clients actively receiving services at any one time.