



North Metro GNETS Program



A member of the Georgia Network for Educational and Therapeutic Support

Serving: Atlanta Independent School District (APS), Buford City Schools, Fulton County Public Schools, and Gwinnett County Public Schools

NORTH METRO GNETS SOCIAL WORKER THERAPEUTIC SUPPORT SERVICES

Who are North Metro GNETS Social Workers?

North Metro GNETS School Social Workers are trained mental health professionals with a degree in social work who provide social emotional learning and therapeutic support services with our students that assist them with being able to make quality school and life decisions. Our School Social Workers are the link between the home, school and community in providing direct as well as indirect services to students, families and school personnel to promote and support students' academic and behavioral successes.

What are Some of the Specific Services That Our North Metro GNETS Social Workers Provide?

Related Services:

- Participating in monthly GNETS clinical team meetings, assessment meetings, IEP meetings, assessment meetings, as well as LIPT meetings
- Working with identified problems in a student's living situation that affect the student's adjustment in school, home, and/or community
- Preparing a social/developmental history on a student with a disability
- Providing Therapeutic Social Emotional Learning (ex. group, individual and/or family)
- Mobilizing family, school, and community resources to enable the student to learn as effectively as possible in his or her educational program
- Assisting in developing positive behavioral intervention strategies

Services to Students:

- Providing crisis intervention
- Developing intervention strategies to increase academic success
- Assisting with conflict resolution and anger management.
- Helping the student develop appropriate social interaction skills
- Assisting the student with learning to self-advocate for him/herself and with understanding and accepting self and others (ex. ASPIRE)

Services to Parents/Families:

- Working with parents to facilitate their support in their child's school adjustment
- Alleviating family stress to enable the student to function more effectively in school and community
- Assisting parents to access programs available to students with special needs (ex. Collaboration with LIPT, DBHDD, etc.)
- Assisting parents in accessing and utilizing school and community resources



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School Personnel Resources:

- Providing staff with essential information to better understand factors (ex. cultural, societal, economic, familial, health, etc.) affecting a student's performance and behavior
- Assessing students with mental health concerns
- Developing staff in-service training programs
- Assisting teachers with behavior management (ex. PBIS)
- Providing direct support to staff

School Community-Liaison:

- Obtaining and coordinating community resources to meet students' needs
- Helping school districts receive adequate support from social and mental health agencies
- Advocating for new and improved community/school service to meet the needs of students and families
- Helping the system respond effectively to each student's needs.

Services to Districts:

- Serving as a valuable member of the IEP team and effectively helping to implement an alternative program (GNETS) for students with chronic behaviors and mental health related issues
- Identifying and reporting student abuse and neglect
- Providing consultation regarding school law and school policy including IDEA, ESSA, and Section 504
- Providing case management for students and families requiring multiple resources

Essential Duties and Responsibilities of a North Metro GNETS Social Worker:

- Provide small affective groups focused on socio-emotional learning, dealing with trauma, self-determination/self-advocacy, decision making, anger management, bullying, peer/social relationships, grief/loss, life skills, etc.
- Provide responsive services including internal and external referral procedures, crisis intervention focused on mental health or situational concerns with the intent of helping the student return to the classroom by removing barriers to learning
- Utilize evidence-based theories, such as cognitive behavioral therapy or solution focused therapy, to facilitate the process of understanding unconscious processes, intrapersonal, interpersonal and psychosocial dynamics, and the assessment, treatment, and evaluation of mental, emotional, and behavioral disorders, conditions and addictions



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- Provide individual services to students that address their academic, personal, social, and mental health needs
- Educate teachers, administrators, parents/guardians, and community stakeholders about the mental health concerns of students, including recognition of the role environmental factors have in causing or exacerbating mental health issues
- Advocate and collaborate with school and community stakeholders to ensure that students and their families have access to mental health services. Participate in professional development to increase their ability to recognize and respond to student mental health crises and concerns
- Assess students for substance use, support systems, physical and emotional functioning, and identify barriers to academic performance, peer issues, suicidal/homicidal ideation, and similar issues
- Develop and implement treatment plans and exit criteria plans that support student self-determination
- Provide direct therapeutic services such as group or individual therapy regarding specific issues
- Provide crisis management services, including assessing for safety
- Advocate for student services and students' best interests
- Provide case management services including, but not limited to, referrals to community resources, collaboration with other professionals
- Provide trainings and workshops to teachers, school staff and parents
- Conduct home visits (only if district approved)
- Participate and a contributing member of the multidisciplinary treatment team