



School Social Work Services at the GOISD

At the Gogebic-Ontonagon Intermediate School District (GOISD), school social workers are essential in supporting students' social, emotional, and behavioral development to help them succeed in school. Services are provided through two funding sources—**Special Education (IDEA)** and **Section 31n School Mental Health**—allowing us to support a wide range of student needs.

Students with an IEP

Students who receive special education services through an Individualized Education Program (IEP) may be eligible for **Special Education School Social Work (SSW)** services. These services:

- Are **educationally focused** and designed to support a student's ability to access and benefit from their IEP.
- Are provided **only if** the student's disability significantly impacts their social-emotional or behavioral functioning in an educational setting.
- Are formally documented in the IEP, including service frequency and goals.
- Must not overlap with other school-based supports such as 31n services.

Note: A student with an IEP may **not qualify for SSW services** if their social-emotional or behavioral needs do not adversely affect their educational performance. In those cases, the student **may still be eligible for 31n school mental health services**, but **students cannot receive both** services at the same time.

However, **students may receive services from Community Mental Health (CMH) alongside school social work services**. Because CMH focuses on clinical treatment and **does not work on IEP goals in the school setting**, there is **no duplication of services** when a student receives both.

Students without an IEP

Students who do not have an IEP may still receive support through **31n School Mental Health Services**. These services:

- They are **available to all students**, regardless of disability status.
- Focus on **mental health promotion, early intervention, and crisis support**.
- Address common concerns such as stress, anxiety, peer conflict, grief, or emotional regulation.
- Do **not require** a special education evaluation or IEP.

Blended Service Model

GOISD uses a **blended funding approach** to ensure that all students—regardless of eligibility or level of need—have access to social work support.

- **The goal is to have each building** staffed with at least one school social worker.
- Students are matched with the **appropriate type of service** based on need and eligibility.
- This approach allows us to support the **whole child**—academically, socially, and emotionally—in every school setting.

If you have questions about school social work services or eligibility, please contact your building's school social worker or the GOISD Student Health & Wellness Administrative Assistant at 906-575-3438, ext. 300.