

2016 Assembly SSW Resolution

RESOLUTION TO PROVIDE ALL NYS STUDENTS WITH ACCESS TO A SOCIAL WORKER

WHEREAS, according to the NYS Department of Health, one in 10 people, including children, experience a mental health issue that is serious enough to affect how he or she functions at work, in school or at home, and mental health problems are a “leading health challenge” for children; and

WHEREAS, a trained mental health professional can help a student solve school or personal problems by providing support and direction, or can help groups of students through the development and implementation of programs that reduce conflicts or issues that may cause emotional problems; and

WHEREAS, the duties of school social workers have expanded to include counseling, crisis intervention and preventative services, helping students with academic problems, working with students whose specific social, psychological, emotional or physical difficulties put them at risk for dropping out of school, developing innovative intervention techniques, developing violence-prevention and anti-bullying programs, and handling school crises including teen suicides and alcohol- and drug-related deaths; and

WHEREAS, the number of school social workers has not significantly increased statewide to meet the greater job demands, making the regular delivery of clinical services difficult; therefore let it be

RESOLVED, that NYSUT calls upon local school districts to hire enough certified and licensed school social workers so that each school has at least one such employee and so that these school social workers have sufficient time to provide needed clinical services to school communities; and be it further

RESOLVED that NYSUT salutes the role that school social workers play in the lives of children and pledges to support legislation that ensures all school children have access to counseling services provided by licensed and certified school social workers.