Rubric for Evaluating Colorado's Specialized Service Professionals: School Social Workers

Definition of an Effective School Social Worker

Effective school social workers are vital members of the education team. They are properly credentialed and have the knowledge and skills necessary to provide social-emotional and behavioral supports through prevention, intervention and crisis response efforts. Effective school social workers strive to support growth and development in the least restrictive environment, close achievement gaps and prepare diverse student populations for postsecondary and workforce success. Effective school social workers employ and adjust evidence-based strategies and approaches to meet the unique needs of their students. They develop interventions and provide services that reflect the reciprocal nature of home, school and community influences on student achievement by communicating and collaborating with students, families and staff. Effective school social workers analyze social-emotional, psychological and academic success and apply what they learn to improve their practice. Through reflection, advocacy and leadership, they enhance the academic achievement, personal/social/physical development of their students.

QUALITY STANDA	RDI			
-	demonstrate mastery o	f and expertise in the do	omain for which they ar	e responsible.
Basic	Partially Proficient	Proficient (Meets State Standard)	Accomplished	Exemplary
	cial workers demonstrate			
takes place and the appr	opriate levels of intellectu	al, social and emotional de	evelopment of their stude	nts.
	and THE SCHOOL	and	and	and
THE SCHOOL	SOCIAL WORKER:	THE SCHOOL	STUDENTS,	STUDENTS:
SOCIAL WORKER: Understands the stages of intellectual, physical, social and emotional development of their students.	 Has knowledge of systems theory, including bio/psycho/social//cultural factors that influence students in the learning environment. Has knowledge of mental health, developmental benchmarks and social/emotional development as they apply to effective service delivery. 	 SOCIAL WORKER: Implements proven and promising practices to address student needs based on knowledge of developmental science. Assesses intellectual, social and emotional development of students for implementation of early identification and intervention 	TEACHERS AND/OR FAMILIES: Demonstrate an understanding of individual child development levels.	Participate in services appropriate for their developmental level.

Basic	Partially Proficient	Proficient (Meets State Standard)	Accomplished	Exemplary
	cial workers demonstrate upport learning in literacy	knowledge of effective ser		signed instruction that
	and	and	and	and
THE SCHOOL SOCIAL WORKER: Can identify barriers to learning for individual students.	 THE SCHOOL SOCIAL WORKER: □ Seeks solutions to barriers that inhibit the education of students. 	 THE SCHOOL SOCIAL WORKER: Implements effective services that reduce the student barriers to learning. Involves the key members of the multi-disciplinary team to problem solve within a tiered system of support model. 	STUDENTS: Can identify their needs in the learning environment.	STUDENTS: Can advocate for their needs in the learning environment.
	ial workers integrate evid		research findings into the	ir services and/or
specially designed instru	and	and	and	and
THE SCHOOL SOCIAL WORKER: Understands the importance of evidence-based practices in effective service delivery.	 THE SCHOOL SOCIAL WORKER: □ Integrates evidence- based practices in their service delivery. 	 THE SCHOOL SOCIAL WORKER: □ Monitors and adjusts evidence- based practices to increase effective service delivery. 	STUDENTS, TEACHERS AND/OR FAMILIES: □ Demonstrate an awareness that evidence-based practices meet individual student needs.	STUDENTS, TEACHERS AND/OF FAMILIES: Apply newly learned skills in their school and/or home environment.
ELEMENT D: School soc influences on student ac	cial workers demonstrate	knowledge of the intercon	nectedness of home, scho	ol and community
initiacities on statent ac	and	and	and	and
THE SCHOOL SOCIAL WORKER: Understands the interconnectedness of home, school and community influences on student achievement.	THE SCHOOL SOCIAL WORKER: Creates a service delivery plan for students recognizing the involvement of home, school and community in student	THE SCHOOL SOCIAL WORKER: Uses careful knowledge of students' homes, communities and schools to implement, evaluate and adapt services.	STUDENTS, TEACHERS AND/OR FAMILIES: Are able to identify the impacts on student learning from home, school and community environments.	STUDENTS, TEACHERS AND/OF FAMILIES: Participate in educational planning to improv the students' educational outcomes.

Basic	Partially Proficient	(Meets St	oficient ate Standard)	Accomplished	Exemplary
ELEMENT E: School soc	ial workers demonstrate l	knowledge	of and expertis	-	
	and	and		and	and
THE SCHOOL SOCIAL WORKER: Demonstrates an understanding of the importance of their multiple roles and responsibilities in an educational environment.	THE SCHOOL SOCIAL WORKER: □ Organizes own time and workloads with consideration of priorities among their various roles and responsibilities.	Partic profes devel- oppor enhan servic streng roles respo relatio educa	WORKER: Eipates in ssional opment ctunities to ace effective ces and gthen various	STUDENTS: Are able to identify what specific interventions have created academic or social/emotional growth.	STUDENTS: Can appropriately advocate for interventions that create academic o social/emotional growth.
Evaluator Comments: Please indicate the eleme not for the standard as a	ent for which the comment of whole.	applies if	-	Person Being Evaluated: e the element for which the c s a whole):	omment applies if not foi

Quality Standard II

School social workers support and/or establish safe, inclusive and respectful learning environments for a diverse population of students.

population of students	5.			
Basic	Partially Proficient	Proficient (Meets State Standard)	Accomplished	Exemplary
	cial workers foster safe and		ronments in which each st	udent has a positive,
nurturing relationship w	vith caring adults and peer			
	and	and	and	and
THE SCHOOL SOCIAL WORKER: Understands the importance of an environment in which each student experiences a caring and nurturing relationship.	THE SCHOOL SOCIAL WORKER: Creates an environment that is supportive, inclusive and flexible and encourages positive relationships between and among students.	 THE SCHOOL SOCIAL WORKER: Collaborates with school/district personnel to create a positive learning community. Prioritizes effective interventions in which each student has a positive, nurturing relationship with a caring adult. 	STUDENTS: Participate in activities that lead to positive and nurturing relationships with other students and the significant adults in their lives.	STUDENTS: Contribute to the establishment and maintenance of a safe learning environment.
communities.				
	and	and	and	and
 THE SCHOOL SOCIAL WORKER: Understands that student and family background and culture may influence development, personality and school performance. Creates an environment in which student and family diversity is valued. 	 THE SCHOOL SOCIAL WORKER: □ Acknowledges the value of each student's, family's and significant adult's contributions to intervention planning. □ Uses intervention approaches and materials which are compatible with students' and families' cultural backgrounds. 	 THE SCHOOL SOCIAL WORKER: Utilizes materials and develops activities that counteract stereotypes and incorporate contributions of various cultural backgrounds. Encourages respect for individual differences and positive social relationships. 	 STUDENTS, TEACHERS AND/OR FAMILIES: □ Seek a variety of perspectives to enhance their awareness of diversity in their school and community. 	STUDENTS, TEACHERS AND/OR FAMILIES: Respect the backgrounds of students.

Basic	Partially Proficient	Proficient (Meets State Standard)	Accomplished	Exemplary
ELEMENT C: School soc needs.	ial workers engage studer	nts as unique individuals w	vith diverse backgrounds,	interests, strengths and
	and	and	and	and
 THE SCHOOL SOCIAL WORKER: Appreciates students' individual differences and values their unique contributions. Treats students as individuals. 	 THE SCHOOL SOCIAL WORKER: ☐ Identifies effective interventions that will engage all students with their unique backgrounds, strengths, interests and needs. ☐ Understands the need for supplementary support services for students with unique learning needs. 	 THE SCHOOL SOCIAL WORKER: □ Provides consultation to school personnel on strategies for meeting the individual needs of students. □ Collaborates with students, families and significant adults to provide effective interventions that will engage all with their unique backgrounds, strengths, interests and needs. 	 STUDENTS AND/OR FAMILIES: □ Participate in services based on their unique interests, strengths and needs. 	 STUDENTS AND/OR FAMILIES: □ Feel that their ideas and participation are valued by the teacher. □ Actively participate in the learning environment.
	cial workers engage in pro her significant adults and,		tive communication and w	ork collaboratively with
	and	and	and	and
THE SCHOOL SOCIAL WORKER: Establishes an environment that is inviting to students, families and significant adults and/or professionals.	 THE SCHOOL SOCIAL WORKER: Works collaboratively to listen to and understand the methods by which communication is preferred by stakeholders. Uses a variety of methods to initiate communication with students, families and 	 THE SCHOOL SOCIAL WORKER: Monitors and adapts communication styles based on needs of the stakeholders. Coordinates communication and information from families and significant adults with colleagues. 	STUDENTS, TEACHERS AND/OR FAMILIES: Have an understanding of the tools by which they can communicate with the school social worker or other significant adults and/or professionals.	 STUDENTS, TEACHERS AND/OR FAMILIES: Seek the school social worker's assistance to find resources and services to support student needs. Partner with the school social worker and the school for the benefit of their students.

Quality Standard II

School social workers support and/or establish safe, inclusive and respectful learning environments for a diverse population of students.

Basic	Partially Proficient	Proficient	Accomplished	Exemplary
		(Meets State Standard)		- ·
		and/or support accessible		naracterized by
acceptable student beha		and appropriate behaviora		
	and	and	and	and
 THE SCHOOL SOCIAL WORKER: □ Provides guidance to students to demonstrate positive behavior. 	THE SCHOOL SOCIAL WORKER: Holds students accountable for class, school and/or district rules.	THE SCHOOL SOCIAL WORKER: Adapts intervention approaches for the benefit of all students, including those with behavior	STUDENTS, TEACHERS AND/OR FAMILIES: Participate in the creation of behavioral interventions to	STUDENTS, TEACHERS AND/OR FAMILIES: Use strategies and skills to increase positive participation in the
Establishes behavioral expectations for all students.	Makes maximum use of intervention time to increase the effectiveness of services.	 Inose with behavior challenges or special needs. Provides professional development/consul tation on effective intervention approaches for students with specific behavioral needs and challenges. 	interventions to increase student access to the learning environment.	participation in the home, school and community environment.
Evaluator Comments: <i>Please indicate the eleme</i> <i>not for the standard as a</i>	nt for which the comment whole.	Comments of	Person Being Evaluated: e the element for which the c s a whole):	omment applies if not for

QUALITY STANDA				
	s plan, deliver and/or m cilitate learning for thei		specially designed inst	ruction and/or create
Basic	Partially Proficient	Proficient (Meets State Standard)	Accomplished	Exemplary
	cial workers provide serv ocedures, academic stanc			
	and	and	and	and
 THE SCHOOL SOCIAL WORKER: Understands legal requirements for professional practices. Demonstrates understanding of individualized education programs, 504 plans and other federal/state/local practices. 	 THE SCHOOL SOCIAL WORKER: Participates in the development of individualized education programs, 504 plans and other federal/state/local practices. Provides services which are individualized and aligned with legal and district requirements. 	 THE SCHOOL SOCIAL WORKER: □ Modify and adapt services related to individualized education programs, 504 plans and other federal/state/local practices. □ Collaborates with stakeholders around federal/state/local practices to individualize services for students. 	STUDENTS AND/OR FAMILIES: Understand their educational rights.	STUDENTS, TEACHERS AND/OR FAMILIES: Utilize materials, strategies and/or interventions to support individualized learning.
	cial workers utilize multip services and/or specially		include valid informal an	d/or formal
	and	and	and	and
THE SCHOOL SOCIAL WORKER: Demonstrates understanding of conducting reliable and valid assessments of individuals, families and systems/organizati ons to inform services.	THE SCHOOL SOCIAL WORKER: Conducts formal and informal assessment of individuals, families and other organizations and maintains accurate and appropriate data. Analyzes assessment data and adjusts services based on assessment data.	 THE SCHOOL SOCIAL WORKER: □ Collaborates with students, families, significant adults and school personnel to monitor progress and collect data. □ Collaborates to share results with family, significant adults and colleagues. 	STUDENTS, TEACHERS AND/OR FAMILIES: Demonstrate understanding of how assessment supports their learning.	STUDENTS, TEACHERS AND/OR FAMILIES: Are involved in ongoing monitoring and data collection related to student growth based on the student's developmental level.

QUALITY STANDARD III				
	plan, deliver and/or m		specially designed inst	ruction and/or create
environments that fac	cilitate learning for their			
Basic	Partially Proficient	Proficient (Meets State Standard)	Accomplished	Exemplary
ELEMENT C: School social workers plan and consistently deliver services and/or specially designed instruction that integrate multiple sources of data to inform practices related to student needs, learning and progress toward achieving academic standards and individualized student goals.				
	and	and	and	and
 THE SCHOOL SOCIAL WORKER: Understands how data should inform and impact services. Understands the importance of integrating data from multiple sources. 	 THE SCHOOL SOCIAL WORKER: Uses data to develop, provide and integrate effective services that are developmentally appropriate. Understands how to monitor student progress toward achieving individualized 	 THE SCHOOL SOCIAL WORKER: Develops findings from the data analyzed and shares results with students, families and colleagues. Integrates data from multiple sources to deliver and improve services. 	STUDENTS, TEACHERS AND/OR FAMILIES: Review and reflect on data collected in order to monitor progress toward achieving individualized student goals.	STUDENTS, TEACHERS AND/OR FAMILIES: Use interventions designed to improve progress toward achieving individualized student goals.
	student goals. cial workers support and		ilable technology in their	services and/or
specially designed instru	uction to maximize studer			
	and	and	and	and
 THE SCHOOL SOCIAL WORKER: Demonstrates an understanding of available technology. Demonstrates an 	 THE SCHOOL SOCIAL WORKER: □ Uses technology to support data collection and effective services to maximize student outcomes. 	THE SCHOOL SOCIAL WORKER: Monitors, adjusts and analyzes technology to support effective services to maximize student outcomes.	STUDENTS: Use technology to provide access to their learning environment.	STUDENTS: Advocate for change to technology use based on their personal learning needs.
awareness of district software.				

QUALITY STANDARD III

School social workers plan, deliver and/or monitor services and/or specially designed instruction and/or create environments that facilitate learning for their students.

Basic	Partially Proficient	Proficient (Meets State Standard)	Accomplished	Exemplary
	cial workers establish and thinking, self-advocacy, le	communicate high expec		that support the
r	and	and	and	and
 THE SCHOOL SOCIAL WORKER: □ Has high expectations for all students. □ Understands that students need to employ critical thinking, self- advocacy and problem solving skills. 	 THE SCHOOL SOCIAL WORKER: □ Incorporates self- advocacy, critical thinking and/or problem solving skills into lessons and/or interventions. □ Collaborates with team members to determine appropriately high expectations for students. 	 THE SCHOOL SOCIAL WORKER: □ Sets student expectations at a level that challenges students and communicates high expectations with school staff and significant adults. □ Systematically and explicitly teaches self-advocacy, critical thinking and/or problem solving skills. 	STUDENTS, TEACHERS AND/OR FAMILIES: Monitor student progress towards achieving social/emotional goals and expectations.	STUDENTS: Demonstrate self- advocacy, critical thinking and problem solving skills based on their developmental level.
ELEMENT F. SCHOOLSO	and	and	and	and
 THE SCHOOL SOCIAL WORKER: Understands the importance of developing effective and individualized communication systems. Demonstrates effective listening skills. 	 THE SCHOOL SOCIAL WORKER: Develops effective and individualized communication systems in collaboration with students. Adjusts communication style to meet the individual needs of students. 	 THE SCHOOL SOCIAL WORKER: Models effective communication skills. Provides students with feedback related to behavior, performance and/or progress. 	STUDENTS, TEACHERS AND/OR FAMILIES: Use feedback to enhance student learning and growth.	STUDENTS: Demonstrate effective communication related to their needs.

environments that fac	cilitate learning for thei		specially designed inst	
Basic	Partially Proficient	State Standard)	Accomplished	Exemplary
ELEMENT G: School so their professions.	cial workers develop and,	/or implement services a	nd/or specially designed i	nstruction unique to
	and	and	and	and
THE SCHOOL SOCIAL WORKER: □ Demonstrates the basic knowledge and skills of school-based crisis response.	THE SCHOOL SOCIAL WORKER: Understands the school/district's written crisis response policies and/or procedures.	THE SCHOOL SOCIAL WORKER: Contributes to and/or implements services for crisis prevention, preparation and	STUDENTS, TEACHERS AND/OR FAMILIES: Demonstrate knowledge of the school's crisis resources and	STUDENTS, TEACHERS AND/OR FAMILIES: Access school and district crisis resources when needed.
 Demonstrates the basic knowledge of mandated reporting requirements. Demonstrates the basic knowledge of effective threat assessment and suicide risk assessment and intervention procedures. 	Provides expertise in skills and interventions related to school- safety and crises.	response.	procedures.	
Evaluator Comments:	ent for which the comment whole.	t applies if (Please indice	of Person Being Evaluated: ate the element for which the ard as a whole):	e comment applies if not

Quality Standard IV	reflect on their practice			
Basic	Partially Proficient	Proficient (Meets State Standard)	Accomplished	Exemplary
	cial workers demonstrate	that they analyze student l	learning, development and	l growth and apply what
they learn to improve the		-	-	-
	and	and	and	and
THE SCHOOL SOCIAL WORKER: Uses data to understand students' social, emotional, psychological and academic development.	 THE SCHOOL SOCIAL WORKER: Makes connections between school, classroom, home and student data and research-based practices. Seeks feedback from students, significant adults and other professionals on the effectiveness of 	 THE SCHOOL SOCIAL WORKER: Engages in frequent and on-going progress monitoring to determine student progress. Applies knowledge of student learning, development and growth to the development of intervention strategies and 	THE SCHOOL SOCIAL WORKER: □ Collaborates with students, significant adults and other professionals to increase the effectiveness of interventions.	THE SCHOOL SOCIAL WORKER: □ Continuously seeks information from multiple sources and analyzes it to improve practice.
ELEMENT B: School so	interventions. cial workers link professio	intervention plans. nal growth to their profes: and	sional goals.	and
THE SCHOOL SOCIAL WORKER:	THE SCHOOL SOCIAL WORKER:	THE SCHOOL SOCIAL WORKER:	THE SCHOOL SOCIAL WORKER:	THE SCHOOL SOCIAL WORKER:
Uses performance feedback from supervisor and/or colleagues to improve practice.	Learns new skills to improve professional practice.	Applies knowledge and skills learned through professional development to decisions regarding effective interventions.	Develops and follows a long-term professional development plan.	□ Uses a long-term, professional development plan to engage in new learning and effective interventions.
ELEMENT C: School so	cial workers respond to co		-	J
	and	and	and	and
THE SCHOOL SOCIAL WORKER: Understands the importance of being aware of and responsive to the school, family and community environments.	THE SCHOOL SOCIAL WORKER: Is responsive to indications of change needed based on awareness of the complexity and dynamic nature of the students' environment.	THE SCHOOL SOCIAL WORKER: □ Strengthens social work practice by adapting interventions and instruction based on data about changes in the environment.	THE SCHOOL SOCIAL WORKER: □ Serves as a consultant for colleagues, both providing and receiving feedback on changes needed to practice as a result of changes in the environment.	THE SCHOOL SOCIAL WORKER: □ Continuously monitors the environment of practice, anticipates and makes needed changes and shares findings with colleagues.

Quality Standard IV	
School social workers reflect on their practice.	
Evaluator Comments:	Comments of Person Being Evaluated:
Please indicate the element for which the comment applies if	(Please indicate the element for which the comment applies if not for
not for the standard as a whole.	the standard as a whole):

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Basic	Partially Proficient	Proficient (Meets State Standard)	Accomplished	Exemplary		
ELEMENT A: School social workers collaborate with internal and external stakeholders to meet the needs of students.						
	and	and	and	and		
THE SCHOOL SOCIAL WORKER: □ Understands the importance of developing trust and building rapport with students, significant adults and other professionals.	THE SCHOOL SOCIAL WORKER: Maintains resources to strengthen the relationship among home, school and community.	 THE SCHOOL SOCIAL WORKER: Develops a system to provide necessary resources and information to stakeholders. Collaborates and shares appropriate resources with stakeholders. 	 THE SCHOOL SOCIAL WORKER: □ Actively engages in relationships with internal and external stakeholders to be aware of changes to resources or services. 	THE SCHOOL SOCIAL WORKER: Utilizes collaborative relationships in order to initiate and maintain resources that will benefit the school, district and community.		
ELEMENT B: School social workers advocate for students, families and schools. and and and						
THE SCHOOL SOCIAL WORKER: Reaches out to students, families and the community in order to understand their needs and advocate on their behalf.	THE SCHOOL SOCIAL WORKER: Implements interventions to support identified areas of need.	 THE SCHOOL SOCIAL WORKER: Advocates for positive changes to school and district policies and/or practices that affect student learning. Contributes to school and/or district and/or community task forces and committees. 	STUDENTS, TEACHERS AND/OR FAMILIES: Collaborate with the school social worker in order to advocate for their needs within the school, home and community setting.	STUDENTS: □ Demonstrate self- advocacy and leadership skills in order to meet their needs based on their developmenta level.		

QUALITY STANDARD V

School social workers demonstrate collaboration, advocacy and leadership.

School social workers demonstrate collaboration, advocacy and leadership.						
Basic	Partially Proficient	Proficient (Meets State Standard)	Accomplished	Exemplary		
ELEMENT C: School social workers demonstrate leadership in their educational setting(s).						
	and	and	and	and		
THE SCHOOL SOCIAL WORKER: Supports schools/districts and/or community goals and initiatives.	 THE SCHOOL SOCIAL WORKER: Participates in school activities beyond those expected of all specialized service professionals. Maintains a positive, productive and respectful relationship with colleagues. 	 THE SCHOOL SOCIAL WORKER: Provides leadership to school-based teams in order to harness the skills and knowledge of colleagues. Provides leadership and consultation in promoting a positive school climate. 	THE SCHOOL SOCIAL WORKER: Acts as a consultant and shares knowledge of helpful practices with colleagues in the areas of mental health, social emotional development, behavior and culture.	THE SCHOOL SOCIAL WORKER: □ Initiates and leads collaborative activities with colleagues to analyze relevant data and interpret results and apply findings to improve interventions and service delivery.		
ELEMENT D: School social workers contribute knowledge and skills to educational practices and their profession.						
	and	and	and	and		
THE SCHOOL SOCIAL WORKER: Understands the importance of collaborating and sharing expertise with colleagues.	 THE SCHOOL SOCIAL WORKER: Collaborates with colleagues to: Support student growth and development. Contribute to school, district and community goals. Enhance opportunities for professional growth. 	 THE SCHOOL SOCIAL WORKER: □ Leads or co-leads professional growth and development activities in the school, district and and/or community environments. □ Participates in school, district and/or community decision-making processes that impact the school community. 	THE SCHOOL SOCIAL WORKER: □ Leads or co-leads school, district and/or community decision-making processes that impact the school community.	THE SCHOOL SOCIAL WORKER: □ Advocates for the inclusion of school social workers in education and government decision making processes.		

QUALITY STANDARD V School social workers demonstrate collaboration, advocacy and leadership.							
Basic	Partially Proficient	Proficient (Meets State Standard)	Accomplished	Exemplary			
ELEMENT E: School social workers demonstrate high ethical standards.							
	and	and	and	and			
 THE SCHOOL SOCIAL WORKER: □ Maintains confidentiality of student records as required by law. □ Adheres to the laws, policies, procedures and ethical standards of the social work profession. 	 THE SCHOOL SOCIAL WORKER: □ Demonstrates ethical behavior, including honesty, integrity, fair treatment, worth of the person, importance of human relationships and respect for others. □ Complies with mandates related to informed consent, privacy, confidentiality and access to records within the context of legal and ethical rights of students and parents. 	 THE SCHOOL SOCIAL WORKER: □ Adheres to the profession's code of ethics as a guide to ethical decision making. □ Models ethical behavior. 	 THE SCHOOL SOCIAL WORKER: □ Informs administrators and colleagues of the ethical responsibilities of the school social work profession. □ Encourages colleagues to demonstrate ethical behavior. 	THE SCHOOL SOCIAL WORKER: □ Sets high expectations for ethical behavior on the part of students and colleagues.			
Evaluator Comments: Comments of Person Being Evaluated: Please indicate the element for which the comment applies if not for the standard as a whole. (Please indicate the element for which the comment applies if not for the standard as a whole):							