

International Network for School Social Work

http://internationalnetwork-schoolsocialwork.htmlplanet.com

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How to Get Help to School Children

Children and teens bring a wide variety of problems to school. Teachers do their best to help, but do not have either the time or the training to provide the help needed. School social workers are ideally trained to help, whether the problems are material, emotional, social or related to family issues. Schools in every country need to find ways to help the children with their problems, so that teachers can teach and children learn. The question is how to get social work services into the schools, starting with establishing the need, then obtaining commitment to fund services, and develop programs that can both prevent problems and relieve existing problems. Here are some examples.

Recognizing the need in Turkey

A pop-up conference in Ankara, Turkey on December 3 provides international expertise to generate interest and information about school social work services to the Turkish Association of Social Workers and local social work students. Mehmet Can Aktan expects the conference to add momentum to implementing school social work and the right to education in Turkey. All are invited. Contact information below or <u>mailto:mcanaktan@baskent.edu.tr</u>.

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Funding for School Social Work in Ontario

The Province of Ontario, Canada is investing \$40 million in services for student mental health. This will include \$25 million in permanent funding for secondary schools to hire 180 (Full Time Equivalent, FTE) social workers and other mental health providers. Dr. Deepy Sur, CEO of the Ontario Association of Social Workers, says, "By virtue of the amount of time children spend in schools, and the important contact schools provide all children and families, the school setting serves as a primary intervention site for children and youth mental health."

Mental Health for Students in North Carolina

Suicide prevention is part of the role for school social workers in school mental health. In Hanover County schools in North Carolina, school social workers have safety protocols to help identify students who may be suicidal. This month the schools will start a new reporting system called *Say Something* <u>https://www.saysomething.net</u> as a tool to help prevent harmful behaviors. For elementary school students a program called *Sanford Harmony* <u>https://www.sanfordharmony.org</u> is used to help children develop healthy relationships, solve problems and improve communication. School social workers and all school staff work as a team to promote children's mental health.

Community Schools in Fairfax County, Virginia

In another service model, social services and schools join up to provide services, such as food assistance, health screenings, psychological support and after-school recreation in the schools. http://www.fairfaxtimes.com/articles/social-services-and-education-meet-in-fairfax-county-s-community/article_9c5c2196-ec63-11e9-bd98-074fcb7d4ca3.html

FaceUp.com - Anonymous Platform Created by Students to Report Bullying, From David Spunar in the Czech Republic

Statistics show, that only 20-30% of kids who witness bullying speak about it. Bullying is a sensitive topic, and not everyone feels comfortable discussing it. Fear of an aggressor or not knowing who to talk to are just two common reasons.

Anonymous reporting platform

FaceUp.com gives a voice to pupils all around the world. They can speak up and seek help for themselves or their classmates through a mobile app and web platform. With FaceUp.com, students or parents can report bullying anonymously, so no one can find out who sent the report and they don't have to be afraid. Reporting is very easy, they just need to fill in one simple form. All reports are then sent directly to people assigned by the school (e.g. school counselors or psychologists), who can deal with such issues and help the victim.

By students for students

FaceUp was created by students, who were former victims of bullying for students all around the world. At the begining, the project creators consulted with experts, psychologists, and counselors and got support from the Ministry of Education of the Czech Republic, Child Helpline and other organizations worldwide.

Giving a voice to bystanders

There are over 1,700 schools all around the world using FaceUp.com and students have sent thousands of reports to their counselors or school psychologists through our app. If you want to sign your school up and give a voice to bystanders, you can do it easily on our website.

Help without borders

FaceUp's mission is to help students in every country in the world. These days the platform is in more than 13 countries and we are looking for partners for the others. If FaceUp is not yet available in your country, don't hesitate to contact them via <u>mailto:info@faceup.com</u> and together you can find how to implement FaceUp in your country too.

Every help is important when it comes to children's safety.

Find out more about FaceUp and its features on <u>faceup.com/en-us/features</u>