



FLORIDA
ASSOCIATION OF
SCHOOL SOCIAL
WORKERS



Dear Florida Legislator,

The Florida School Counselor Association (FSCA), the Florida Association of School Social Workers (FASSW), and the Florida Association of School Psychologists (FASP) are state professional organizations dedicated to supporting teachers and administrators in improving student achievement and performance. Our missions for Florida's students and families are clear and concise: **Promoting the best for students** (advocating for sufficient and high quality programs in every school that stress academic, personal, social, and career development) and **providing excellent professionals who utilize evidence-based practices to make appropriate educational decisions.** We believe that every family deserves the opportunity for their child or adolescent to learn and to achieve to that student's full potential.

As student services personnel, we touch the lives of every student in every school throughout their educational careers. Our three allied professions play key roles in assessing student needs, teaching critical competencies, and removing barriers to student achievement and performance. Each of our professions can point to research that demonstrates our effectiveness. We invite you to learn more about our roles in improving student learning, behavior, readiness to learn and to participate in school, and other student outcomes as well as preventing or reducing the negative impacts of under-education, bullying, harassment, and unresolved conflict and violence in the schools.

In this era of fiscal constraints, each of our professions plays a significant part in implementing key programs and responding to mandates for educational reform. The investments that are made in excellent academic programs require the work of School Counselors, School Social Workers, and School Psychologists to ensure appropriate assessment and placement, remediation, and readiness to help address the pressures many students feel that become barriers to their learning and success.

Support our roles in your schools so that we can do our jobs well and help to improve achievement for individual students, schools, districts, and the state. Give us the tools that we need. Provide us with relevant professional development, focused job descriptions and evaluation standards, and reasonable caseloads so all students can have access to high quality, appropriate curricula and services. The children and families of our state will thank you for it!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Chris Smith".

Chris Smith, President
Florida School Counselor Association

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Beverley Wilks".

Beverley Wilks, President
Florida Association of School Social Workers

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Monica Ogan Murray".

Monica Ogan Murray, President
Florida Association of School Psychologists