

WASHINGTON STATE WORKFORCE FOR STUDENT WELL-BEING INITIATIVE

A statewide, collaborative strategy to increase the number, diversity, and skills of school social workers working in Washington schools.

THE DATA

Schools are the **most common** setting in which children and youth receive mental healthcare. – *Duong, Bruns, et al., 2021*

84% of schools across the nation say it will be somewhat or very difficult to fill mental health positions in schools. – *2022 Kaiser Family Foundation Survey.*

Nearly **80%** of the mental health workforce in Washington is white, compared to only **49%** of Washington's K-12 students. – *Washington Health Care Authority/Washington OSPI*

THE OPPORTUNITY

Thanks to a \$6 million grant from the U.S. Department of Education, we will award **100 scholarships of up to \$30,000 each for five years to MSW students at Eastern Washington University, Seattle University, University of Washington (UW) – Seattle, UW – Tacoma, and Walla Walla University.** These students will commit to:

- 1 Participating in specialized training and a community of practice focused on effective K-12 school mental health and [Multi-Tiered System of Supports \(MTSS\)](#);
- 2 Completing their 20-hour per week practicum placement in a school district or Educational Service District (ESD) that serves [high-need schools](#); and
- 3 Working in a high-need LEA for two years after graduation.

The grant will also support Washington's five social work training programs to work with [UW SMART](#) and [Washington Association of School Social Workers \(WASSW\)](#) to prepare students to provide effective school-based mental health services and leadership on school mental health and MTSS.

PRACTICUM ASSIGNMENTS BEGIN THIS SPRING FOR THE 2023-2024 SCHOOL YEAR.

LEAs and ESDs who want to receive updates on WSW and/or who are potentially interested in hosting practicum students or employing school social workers (whether now or in the future) should complete this brief interest survey found [here](#).

School Social Workers hold a Masters in Social Work (MSW) and an Educational Staff Associate (ESA) certificate from Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI).

FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT: smartcenter.uw.edu; [OSPI](https://ospi.wa.gov); and socialwork.uw.edu
QUESTIONS: smhworkforce@uw.edu

School social workers can serve many roles: PBIS Coordinator, Behavior Intervention Specialist, Family Resource Specialist, Mental Health Specialist, Intervention Specialist, Student Success Coach, Family Advocate, Intervention/Alcohol & Drug Specialist.