

Inclusive Student Services Impact Update

2023-2024 • Volume 8

Social Work Services

The Social Work team at the DDSB is comprised of a diverse group of registered Social Workers with varied professional expertise and lived experiences. Social Workers provide voluntary, student-centered services from anti-oppressive, equity focused, trauma informed, and identity affirming perspectives. Social Workers partner with students, caregivers, educators and other professionals to support student success and well-being.

Your Social Worker Gets You!

The Social Work team supports student mental health, well-being, student/school engagement, and attendance needs. We recognize that students have unique lived experiences and narratives about the issues and circumstances that are a source of stress for them. These may include but are not limited to:

- emerging or intensifying mental health needs;
- experiences of interpersonal and systemic racism and oppression;
- non-affirming identity related stressors;
- Bullying, harassment, discrimination;
- school engagement;
- family and community concerns; and
- various psychosocial needs

These stressors can intersect in ways that may impact a student's mental health, well-being, and sense of safety influencing how they may experience school and personal success. We work with young people to amplify their voice, leverage their strengths, elevate their unique perspectives, and build skills to improve day to day functioning.



"Most importantly, they are the safe, caring adults in our building that have made life-changing differences to those in need."

—Hayley, Administrator

Members of the Social Work team serve students and school communities through a variety of services such as:

- consultation to support student goals and experiences;
- delivering direct mental health services for students, either individually or in a group setting;
- providing crisis and traumatic incident support for students and school community;
- offering targeted classroom/group interventions; and/or
- facilitating staff and system capacity building.

As members of a multi-disciplinary Inclusive Services school team, Social Workers often work in collaboration with members of Speech Language Services, Psychological Services and educators in a variety of roles to provide support for students.

"Our Social Worker approach their interactions with students, staff, and families from an Anti-Oppression lens and have a keen sense of understanding where individuals are with respect to the understanding of barriers that may be preventing students from achievement and success."

–Brandon, Administrator

"The support provided by our Social Workers has made an invaluable difference to our Student Success Team. The direct support that they provide to our students has significantly impacted their engagement and success, as well their consultation has guided our team to be able to consider the best approach to determining the needs of students requiring support."

–Tracey, Administrator

How to Access School Social Work:

Services are primarily referral-based and offered according to the Ontario College of Social Workers and Social Service Workers' requirements. School-based staff follow the Inclusive Student Services referral pathway. Services can also be offered to students if they, or their caregivers, make a request through the [Connect with our Mental Health Team button](#) on the DDSB website.

Connect with our
Mental Health Team



"I wanted to reach out to you and tell you how thankful I am for all your support, wisdom and kindness this year. I think about you and your role in our journey all the time. I truly know that you were the pillar of strength (and my family) in our darkest hours..."

–Parent

**For more information about the
DDSB Inclusive Student Services Impact Update,
please visit [DDSB Inclusive Student Services](#).**

