



Take Action: Contact Your Legislator and Elected Officials

School social workers possess a unique perspective and specialized training. They experience firsthand the barriers that prevent students from thriving. Legislators need to hear school social workers' voices when making decisions about education and student mental health. By taking just a few minutes to contact your elected officials, you can help shape policies, procedures, and funding decisions that directly impact students, families, and school communities across Minnesota. Your advocacy can ensure safety, inclusivity, and equitable access to resources and support for ALL students.

Steps for being an effective advocate - A Call to Action (CTA):

Step 1: Leverage Professional Associations

Utilize resources and action alerts from organizations like the Minnesota School Social Workers Association (MSSWA), the School Social Work Association of America (SSWAA) or the National Association of Social Workers (NASW).

Step 2: Before initiating contact, determine your audience

Local, state, or federal legislator, school board, or other stakeholders

Step 3: Find your legislator

Use the Minnesota Legislature's "[Who Represents Me?](#)" tool to identify your

state senator and representative.

Step 4: Choose your message

Identify the specific issues or challenges you want to address and the objectives you hope to accomplish. Use the [advocacy letter template](#), and personalize it with your own experience as a school social worker.

Step 5: Customize the details

Add your name, school or district, and city. If applicable, include the bill number or issue you're contacting them about.

Step 6: Send your message

Email is the fastest option, but phone calls and mailed letters are also effective ways to make your voice heard.

Step 7: Follow up if you can

If you receive a response, consider replying or requesting a brief meeting to continue the conversation.

Remember:

Every message helps elevate the voice of school social workers and strengthens support for ALL Minnesota students.