

## Our Team

Phyllis Combs

Amy Gardner

Nichelle Lemons

Tony Lopez

Kitina McCants

Grachelle Sherburne

Terry Smitherman

Shuntay Strachan

Lee Stanley

Delmar Terry

Amber Walker

Fhara Walker

School social workers serve students in grades K-12. They are certified master's level social workers. They have experience in helping children and families cope with social and psychological problems that may arise at school, home, work, or in the larger community.

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### DOUGLAS COUNTY SCHOOL SYSTEM

Student Services Department  
Phone: 770.651.2090 | FAX: 770.651.2012  
9030 Highway 5  
Douglasville, GA 30134

School Social Workers (SSW) are concerned about the educational welfare of children. They assist students within the educational environment by mediating with school personnel to provide services that promote students' academic achievement.



## SCHOOL SOCIAL WORKERS

### DOUGLAS COUNTY SCHOOL SYSTEM

Student Services Department

## How does a school social worker assist students, families and school personnel?

The Douglas County School System is dedicated to the goal of helping every student experience success in school. In keeping with this goal, the SSW provides non-instructional services to students and families. Students are the primary focus of the educational process and are viewed by the SSW in relation to the family, school, and community. School Social Workers are trained to identify, assess, and resolve personal and/or family conflicts which may interfere with school attendance, social adjustment or academic achievement.

### TRUANCY

In the State of Georgia, School Social Workers have traditionally been responsible for enforcing Georgia's compulsory school attendance law. This law requires all children ages 6 - 16 to regularly attend a public, private, or home school. School Social Workers understand that not attending school is most often a symptom of deeper problems. School Social Workers use the issue of truancy as an opportunity to identify and address problems that are most likely causing distress in the lives of students and their families.

Douglas County School Board Policy JBD(1)  
Student Absences and Excuses

## When should I ask for help from a school social worker?

A referral to an SSW should be made when problems at home, personal issues, attendance inconsistencies, or social adjustment difficulties significantly interfere with a student's learning. Students may refer themselves, or be referred by a parent, guardian, school personnel, or other individual familiar with the child for a social work assessment and intervention.

## Why is the school social worker important?

An SSW is most effective in helping to bring about change when the family, school, and community work together to assist the student in obtaining academic achievement. The SSW emphasizes the importance of keeping the lines of communication open among parents, students, and the school. Parents are encouraged to have an active role in their child's education.

## CHILD ABUSE/NEGLECT

School Social Workers are "mandated reporters" and they are required by law to report child abuse and neglect to Georgia Department of Family and Children Services.

For more information, please visit the Douglas County School Board Policy: JGI Child Abuse/Neglect.

### ATTENDANCE LAW

Compulsory Attendance Ages: "between 6th and 16th birthdays." Official Code of Georgia Annotated § 20-2-690.1. However, if a child is under 6 and has attended more than 20 days in a public school, he is then subject to the compulsory attendance laws.

§ 20-2-150(C).