



A Guide for Administrators/Supervisors

National School Social Work Week

March 1-7, 2026

Unite to Ignite: Celebrating Our Impact

School social workers are deeply committed professionals who spend much of their time advocating for students, families, and school communities. While recognition is never their motivation, feeling seen, supported, and valued by leadership makes a meaningful difference.

School Social Work Week is an opportunity for administrators and supervisors to acknowledge the vital role school social workers play—and to do so in ways that feel authentic, respectful, and supportive.

What School Social Workers Shared

Feedback from school social workers shows that thoughtful, genuine recognition matters far more than grand gestures. Many value:

- Personal, specific appreciation
- Private or low-key recognition
- Choice in how (or if) they are publicly acknowledged
- Recognition that reflects their real work and impact

Keeping these preferences in mind helps ensure recognition feels meaningful—not performative or uncomfortable.

Meaningful Ways to Show Appreciation

Start with Personal Recognition

- Send a handwritten note, email, or message expressing specific appreciation.
- Mention a concrete example of their impact, advocacy, or support.
- Acknowledge the complexity and emotional labor of their role.

"I appreciate how you supported students during [specific situation]. Your work truly makes a difference."



Be Mindful About Public Recognition

- **Ask first** before making public announcements or spotlights.
- Respect that some school social workers prefer private recognition.
- If public recognition is welcome, keep it authentic and brief.

Support Without Adding Pressure

- Avoid asking school social workers to plan or lead activities during the week.
- Refrain from adding extra meetings, presentations, or requests.
- Look for ways to reduce demands, even briefly, if possible.

Encourage Appreciation from Others

- Invite staff, students, or families to share notes of thanks—without obligation.
- Provide optional ways to participate, such as:
 - Cards or drawings
 - Short messages collected digitally
 - Classroom or staff shout-outs (with consent)

Small Gestures Go a Long Way

- A favorite drink, snack, or small token paired with a note
- Flexible scheduling when possible
- Public support of school social work initiatives beyond this week

Most Important Reminder

There is no “right” way to celebrate School Social Work Week.

What matters most is that recognition is:

- Thoughtful
- Specific
- Respectful
- Optional

When school social workers feel valued and supported, they are better able to continue the critical work they do every day—supporting students, families, and school communities.

Thank you for taking the time to recognize and support your school social worker(s) during **School Social Work Week 2026**.