Chapter IX
SOCIAL WORK PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS AND PROFESSIONAL RESOURCES

Minnesota School Social Workers’ Association
Midwest School Social Work Council School
School Social Work Association of America
National Association of Social Work
Council for Exceptional Children
Chapter IX: Social Work Professional Association and Professional Resources

Minnesota School Social Workers' Association [http://www.msswa.org/]

MSSWA is a politically responsive, statewide organization committed to the improvement of the school social work profession and to the well-being of children and their families. The MSSWA is a Minnesota association that represents Minnesota school social workers. It offers membership and conference information, database of current members, database to track student contact information and position papers and local legislative information. Publications available include:

- Scope of Practice Position Paper
- Educational Model of Mental Health by Anne Gearly, PhD

Midwest School Social Work Council [http://midwestssw.org/]

Funded through revenues generated by School Social Work services, the Council provides a forum for its member states to collectively address new trends and developments in the field, and to develop and share methods of promoting school social work services. The Council also considers and responds to critical issues affecting the profession. The website offers a variety of resources and information including:

- Midwest area chapters of school social work associations
- Contact information and history of council
- PowerPoint for how “School Social Workers make a difference”
- Supplemental School Social Work Ethical Standards (in conjunction with NASW Code of Ethics)

School Social Work Association of America [www.sswaa.org]

The School Social Work Association of American (SSWAA) empowers school social workers and promotes the profession of school social work to enhance the social and emotional growth and academic outcomes of all students. The vision is that school social work is a valued, integral part of the education of all children, connecting schools, families and communities. SSWAA publishes certain titles for distribution. Current publications which are available include one which describes the role of a school social worker, and a technical guide to completing a functional analysis and behavior intervention plan. Other publications available to support school social workers in their practice. www.sswaa.org

The National Association of Social Workers (NASW) is the largest membership organization of professional social workers in the world, with 150,000 members. NASW represents all social workers and works to enhance the professional growth and development of its members, to create and maintain professional standards and to advance sound social policies.

Other resources available on the website include:
- NASW Standards for Cultural Competence in Social Work Practice
- NASW Standards for School Social Work
  http://socialworkers.org/PRACTICE/standards/School_Social_Work.asp

The Council for Exceptional Children (CEC) is the largest international professional organization dedicated to improving educational outcomes for individuals with exceptionalities, students with disabilities and/or the gifted. CEC advocates for appropriate governmental policies, sets professional standards, provides continual professional development, advocates for newly and historically underserved individuals with exceptionalities and helps professionals obtain conditions and resources necessary for effective professional practice. Services provided:
- Professional development opportunities and resources
- 17 divisions for specialized information
- Journals and newsletters with information on new research findings, classroom practices that work, federal legislation and policies
- Conventions and conferences
- Special education publication