

The Halifax Regional Centre for Education employs 13 social workers to support schools, students and families within our district. The role of the school social worker is to break down barriers that prevent families and students from accessing services that are required in order for the student to reach their full potential and achieve success at school. Families/students are also required to consent to receiving the service and are provided with an overview of what the service entails.

The support offered by an HRCE social worker can vary from school to school as they can wear many hats. Often, social workers receive requests to assist students and families in problem solving around the following topics:

- Attendance issues
- Communication difficulties between the home and school settings
- Remarriage, separation, divorce
- Death, depression, family conflict
- Stress, unhappiness, sexuality
- Poor peer relationships/social skills
- Accessing supports within the community
- Housing or food insecurity
- Aggression/anger

School Social workers have the flexibility to support schools in discussing the best means of problem solving for students and families. They can provide schools with guidance around appropriate referrals and may support families and students in accessing services. The intervention(s) provided, will be determined by the family/student in collaboration with the school social worker, as it is the family who decides what interventions are necessary to assist and support them.