

SCHOOL SOCIAL WORK IN SAXONY

"CONCISE AND CONCRETE"



Landesarbeitsgemeinschaft
SCHULSOZIALARBEIT
SACHSEN e.V.



HELLO!

This brochure is intended to provide interested parents, teachers, school administrators and network partners with an insight into the field of action of School Social Work in Saxony and into the contents of the expert recommendation paper on School Social Work in the Free State of Saxony (Fachempfehlung zur Schulsozialarbeit im Freistaat Sachsen) and give an impetus to take a closer look at this exciting field. We will explain what School Social Work is, who is involved at what point and what the goals are.

We hope you enjoy reading and looking through the information!

WHAT IS SCHOOL SOCIAL WORK?



School Social Work in Saxony is based on the regulations laid down in section 13(a) of the German law on child and youth support (Kinder- und Jugendstärkungsgesetz, KJSG). According to this legal basis, School Social Work is an individual field of action within the child and youth welfare services provided by the responsible local bodies. Skilled professionals work in schools on a regular basis as part of a binding cooperation agreement. School Social Work acts as a further means for the school to assist parents and the community in the upbringing of children and adolescents from a social education perspective.

WHO IS INVOLVED IN SCHOOL SOCIAL WORK?

School Social Work is an optional offer of consultation for any young person attending school. It pays special attention to the needs of socially disadvantaged children and adolescents and those with different needs. School Social Work providers cooperate with parents/legal guardians, teachers and school administrators to support, empower and provide assistance to young people according to their needs throughout their schooldays.



WHAT ARE THE GOALS OF SCHOOL SOCIAL WORK?



School Social Work aims at providing assistance to children and adolescents throughout their individual process of growing up and becoming adults and at helping them deal with the fundamental and everyday questions and issues of life that arise. School Social Work focuses on each young person's specific situation in life. This way it contributes to ensuring that they can learn in a healthy environment and are supported according to their individual abilities and interests. School Social Work is designed according to the needs of children and adolescents, helps compensate for educational discrimination and defends educational equality of opportunity. It involves close cooperation with other partners.

HOW IS SCHOOL SOCIAL WORK CARRIED OUT?

A focus on everyday life as well as low-threshold access:

School Social Work provides assistance to children and adolescents in their personal everyday lives and addresses issues relevant to their daily lives. School Social Work takes place at schools, so children and adolescents can seek assistance at an early stage.

Participation: School Social Work involves children and adolescents in the processes and decisions and it encourages them to contribute their own views and abilities to change their lives and school situations.

Everything is voluntary, which means **it is up to the children and adolescents** to seek out help if they think they need it.

Relationship, trust, transparency: School Social Work builds stable relationships of trust in a reliable manner, guarantees confidentiality and makes its activities and its limitations transparent.

Inclusion, diversity, uniqueness:

School Social Work considers and respects children and adolescents as individual personalities in terms of their gender, orientation/identity, background, religion, way of life and in terms of their physical, intellectual and psychological uniqueness.

Networking: School Social Work cooperates closely with various professionals and social service providers.



WHAT TASKS DOES SCHOOL SOCIAL WORK EXERCISE?

Individual assistance:

School Social Work provides information, advice and assistance to any young person by offering informal meetings, one-time consultations and on-going counseling processes.



Assistance in cases of conflict:

School Social Work offers advice, mediation and coaching in cases of conflict between two or more persons, applying various methods (such as offering an apology, interventions in cases of bullying, financial compensation).

Group work:

School Social Work applies group and project-based methods and aims at encouraging social learning in children and adolescents and at providing room for encounters, communication and relationship-building.



Child protection/intervention in the event of a threat to the welfare of children:

If there are signs of an immediate threat to the child's welfare, School Social Work providers will and are obliged by section 8(a) of the German Social Code (SGB VIII) to cooperate with experienced professionals.

Cooperation with parents and other partners:

School Social Work providers cooperate with various groups of people to carry out their tasks. The most important partners are parents/legal guardians, school administrators, teachers and social and local institutions.



Further developing the concept, quality and skills:

The concept and quality of School Social Work needs to be continually developed for it to be successful. It is crucial for staff carrying out this work to have regular access to consultation sessions, expert advice and further training and to have the opportunity to take part in the meetings of committees and expert working groups.

AN IMPORTANT TOPIC: SECRECY

According to section 203(1)6 of the German Criminal Code, social workers must maintain secrecy except when they are released from this obligation or when there is a duty or authorization of disclosure in the event of a threat to the welfare of a child. Necessity as justification and intended offences annul the obligation to maintain secrecy as well.



THE LAW ON SCHOOL EDUCATION IN SAXONY AND THE STATE PROGRAM ON SCHOOL SOCIAL WORK ACT AS A LEGAL BASIS



It is laid down in section 1(4)3 of the law on school education in Saxony that an adequate amount of School Social Work services should be provided at all school types and school levels to ensure child and youth welfare services provision as laid down in the German Social Code (SGB VIII) and that School Social Workers may take part in the school committee in an advisory capacity (section 43).

At the beginning of 2017, a state program on School Social Work (Landesprogramm Schulsozialarbeit) was established on the basis of a funding guideline (Förderrichtlinie, FRL) in order to expand School Social Work in Saxony. The scientific basis and the intended goals of School Social Work are laid down in the expert recommendation paper on School Social Work in the Free State of Saxony (Fachempfehlung zur Schulsozialarbeit im Freistaat Sachsen) published in 2016.

THE ASSOCIATION 'LANDESGEMEINSCHAFT (LAG) SCHULSOZIALARBEIT SACHSEN E.V.'

The Landesarbeitsgemeinschaft Schulsozialarbeit Sachsen e.V. is the federal state's association and an expert partner for School Social Work in Saxony. We represent the interests and matters of School Social Work in Saxony in a political and advisory context. We offer School Social Workers further training and we give specialist advice to institutions and professionals providing School Social Work services. We contribute to an increase in communication between the various partners and to on-going development of the School Social Work field of action in Saxony and we find it important to further professionalize and provide more public information about the field. More information about us is available at www.schulsozialarbeit-sachsen.de

Sources: Saxony State Ministry for Social Affairs and Social Cohesion, Government Office for Youth Welfare: Fachempfehlung zur Schulsozialarbeit im Freistaat Sachsen 2016, the law on school education for the Free State of Saxony 2021, German Social Code (SGB VIII) child and youth welfare services 2021

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