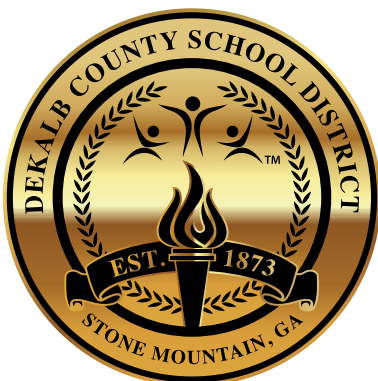


PROCLAMATION

National School Social Work Week

- WHEREAS: The social work profession has been helping to improve the welfare of people, families, communities and our nation for generations. School social workers work to empower individuals, families, communities, and our schools to overcome challenges that prevent them from sustaining and achieving their full potential. Therefore the DCSD Social Work Department will align with this year's theme "Unite To Ignite: Celebrating Our Impact."
- WHEREAS: The importance of school social work, through the inclusion of school social work programs and services, has been recognized in the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 6301 et seq.) and the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (20 U.S.C. 1400 et seq.);
- WHEREAS: DeKalb County School District has 75 school social workers, serving 131 schools, who are exceptionally skilled in providing services to our Elementary, Middle, High Schools, GNETS, S.A.F.E. Centers and district offices.
- WHEREAS: School social workers serve as vital members of a school's education team, playing a central role in creating partnerships between the home, school, and community to ensure student academic success, and providing services to students who face serious challenges to school success, including disability, poverty, discrimination, abuse, neglect, mental illness, homelessness, bullying, familial stressors and other barriers to learning. The need for school social workers has never been greater.
- WHEREAS: As more students struggle with mental and behavioral disorders, with nearly 1 in 6 children from 2 to 8 years old (17.4 percent) having a diagnosed mental, behavioral or developmental disorder, school-based mental health programs are critical to early identification of and early intervention for mental health problems. School social workers, as licensed mental health professionals in schools, provide necessary assessment, interventions, counseling, family outreach and community referrals.

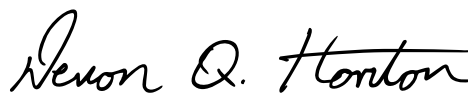
BY THIS ACTION, let it be known that the DeKalb County School District Board of Education and Superintendent Dr. Devon Horton hereby proclaim March 2-8, 2025, as "School Social Work Appreciation Week" in the DeKalb County School District, and the members of this body commend the School Social Workers and its department for the work done to help provide supportive services to DeKalb's child and their families and improve DeKalb's education system. In witness whereof, we affix signatures on the 10th day of March 2025.



Mrs. Deirdre P. Pierce
DeKalb County School District
Board Chair



Ms. Allyson Gevertz
DeKalb County School District
Board Vice Chair



Dr. Devon Horton
DeKalb County School District
Superintendent