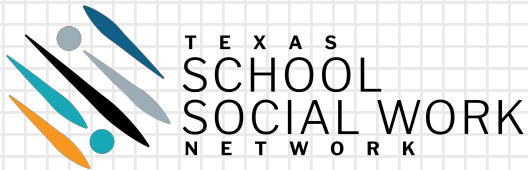


# Texas School Social Work Survey Results

June 2020



The University of Texas at Austin  
**Texas Institute for  
Child & Family Wellbeing**  
*Steve Hicks School of Social Work*



**TEXAS**  
The University of Texas at Austin  
Steve Hicks School of Social Work

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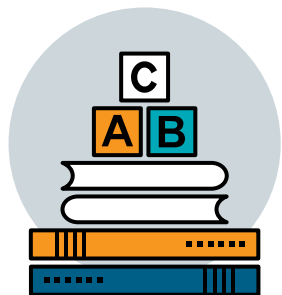
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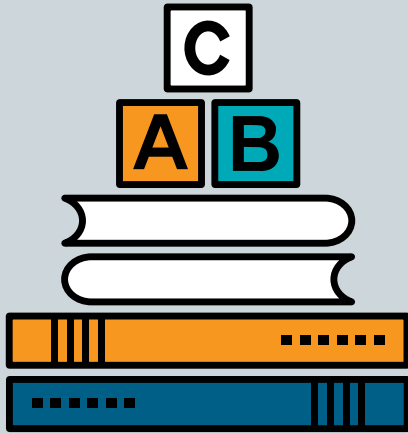
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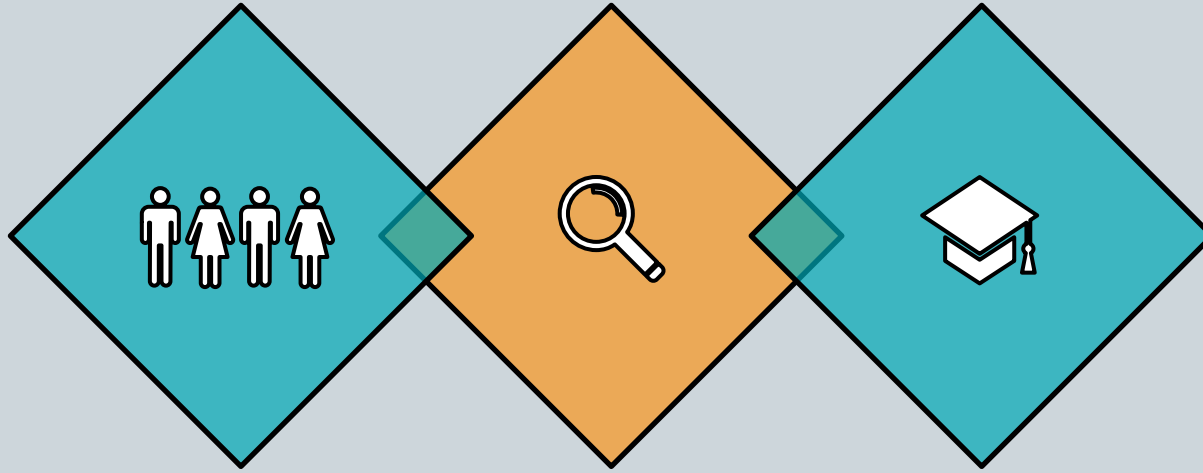




# Overview

Demographics of Texas School Social Workers

# Purpose of the survey



Understand the roles of social workers in school settings and how service is provided to children and families through school social work in the state of Texas.

Identify the barriers the school social workers face and the supports they need to better serve the Texas school social worker population.

Find out Texas school social workers' attitudes towards earning their school social work certificate through the Steve Hicks School of Social Work at UT Austin.

# LET'S AMPLIFY TEXAS SCHOOL SOCIAL WORKERS' VOICES!

## HOW TO GET INVOLVED:

### WHAT WE ARE DOING:

School social workers are an integral part of a student's education, and yet we do not have a regional network of school mental health professionals who are coming together to connect, learn, and improve practices through collaboration.

Introducing The **Texas School Social Work Network**. By focusing on research, training, and practice, TSSWN hopes to build an evidence-based model to provide school social workers with guidance and tools they can use in their everyday practice.

As a first step, researchers at The Texas Institute for Child & Family Wellbeing are conducting a brief survey to better understand what tools are needed by professionals working in schools.

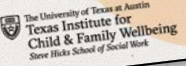


### Step 1

Scan the QR Code or follow the link to take our short survey and have a chance to win one of two registration spots for next year's School Social Work Conference!

### Step 2

Visit [bit.ly/SchoolSWunite](http://bit.ly/SchoolSWunite) to learn more about The Network and sign up for our newsletter!



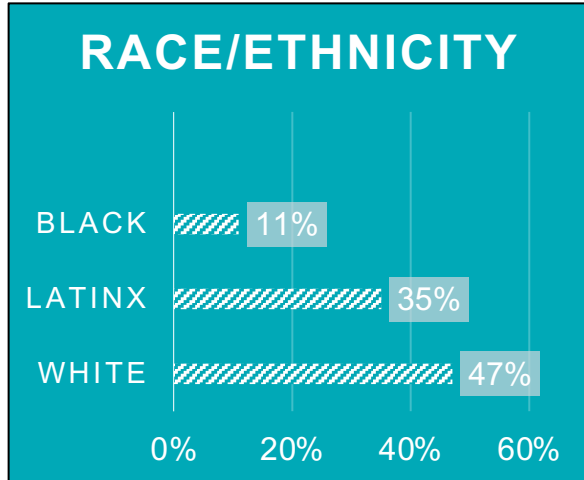
# Survey Recruitment

We recruited for this survey at the 2020 Texas School Social Workers Conference using a flyer that was given to all attendees and on social media and in newsletters.

# General Demographics

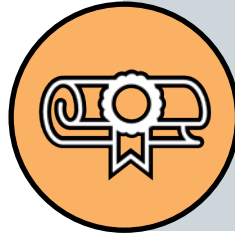
212

Participants took the survey.



50% Do not speak a second language

34% speak Spanish as a second language



85% have a Master's Degree

84% have a Master's degree in Social Work

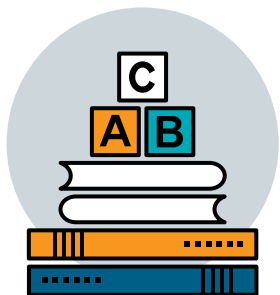
72%

of the respondents are 25-54 years old.

# Workplace & Region

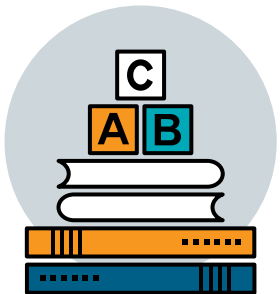
School social workers that participated in the survey are employed by:

<b>72.4%</b>	TEXAS PUBLIC SCHOOL, MAGNET SCHOOL, OR CHARTER SCHOOL
<b>16.3%</b>	NON-PROFIT AGENCY (E.G. COMMUNITIES IN SCHOOLS, PARENTS ARE TEACHERS, ETC.)
<b>1.4%</b>	RELIGIOUS SCHOOL OR PRIVATE SCHOOL
<b>2.4%</b>	GOVERNMENT AGENCY IN TEXAS (E.G. HACA, DSHS, ETC)
<b>0%</b>	TEXAS JUVENILE JUSTICE ALTERNATIVE EDUCATION PROGRAM (JJAEP)
<b>7.5%</b>	OTHER (MOST WERE UNIVERSITY STUDENTS OR FACULTY)



# Workplace & Region

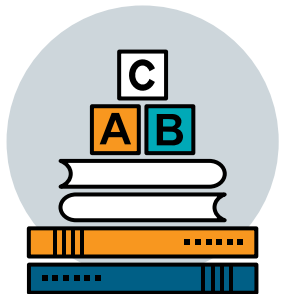
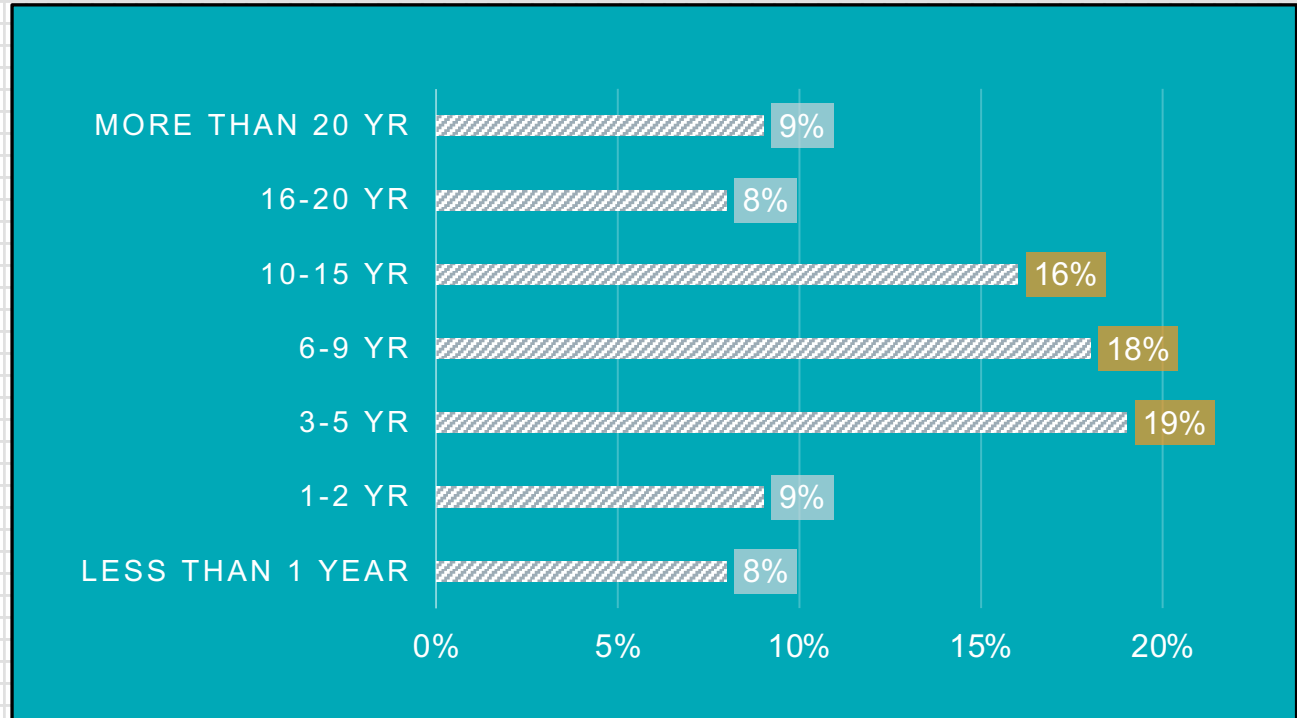
Top regions that the respondents primarily work were **Austin**, **San Antonio** and **Houston**.





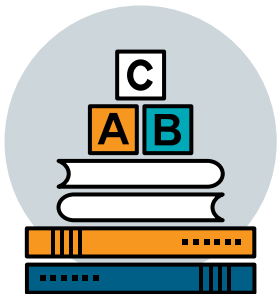
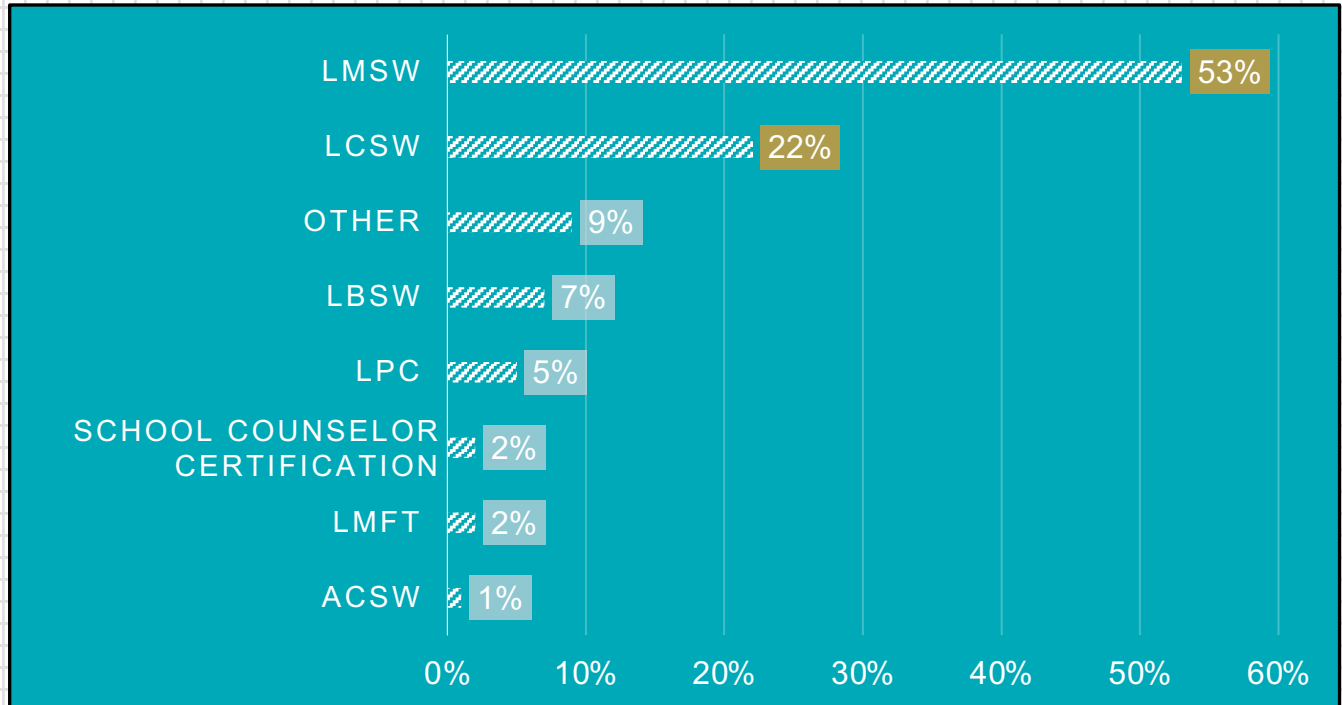
# Years Working in Schools

The majority of them have been work in or with schools for **3-9 years**.



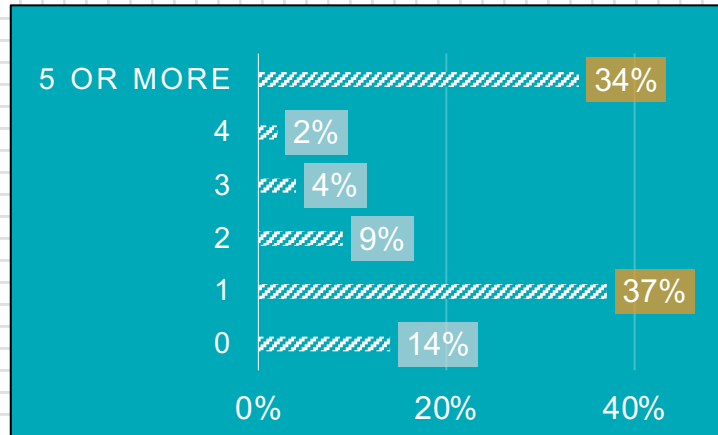
# Licensure

Among all participants, **75%** of school social workers had either a LMSW or LCSW.

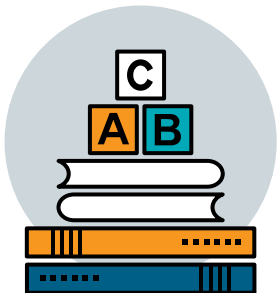
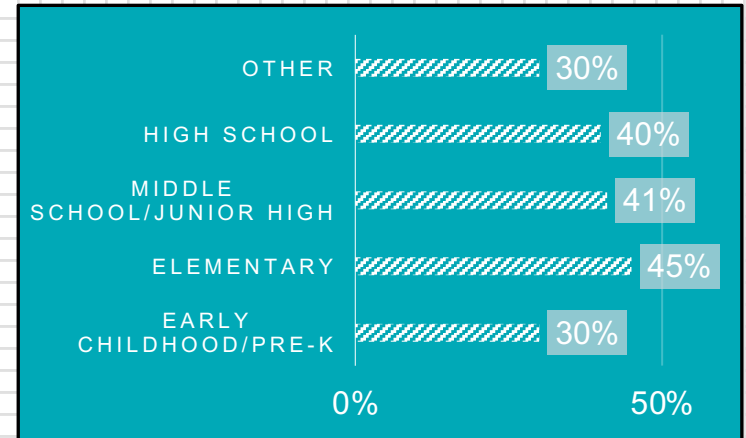


# Campuses and Grades

Most of them need to cover at least **1** or **5** or more campuses.

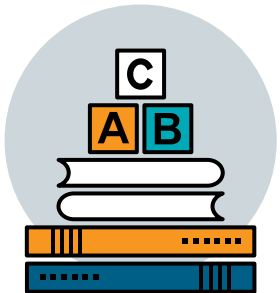
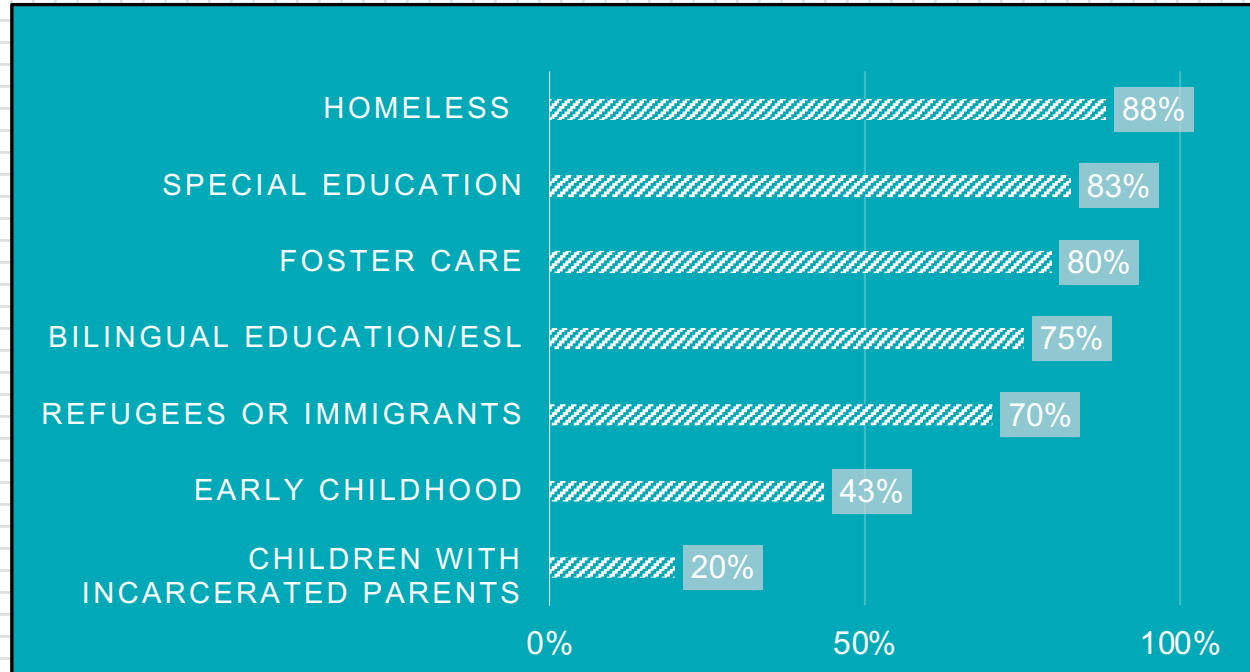


School grades that the school social workers serve are similarly distributed.

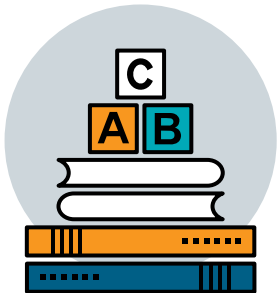


# Special population

special populations served most by survey respondents:



# Case Management



**Most Frequent**  
Case management  
tasks performed by  
school social workers

1. Coordinate community resources to meet students need
2. Help family and child alleviate stress
3. Coordinate systems of care & Work with parents to facilitate support

1. Attend court related to a student outcry
2. Assist teachers with classroom management
3. Provide truancy and/or drop-out recovery services

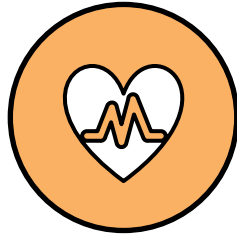


**Least Frequent**  
Case management  
tasks performed by  
school social workers

# Most Frequent Intervention / Assessment Service



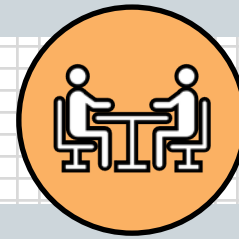
Most school social workers provided **Depression or Anxiety** assessment or intervention services on a daily/weekly basis.



**Substance abuse** assessment/intervention was the least performed service by TX school social workers.

# Least Frequent Intervention / Assessment Service

# Clinical/ Mental Health Tasks



## Most frequent clinical/mental health tasks performed by Texas school social workers:

1. Help children develop social emotional skills
2. Develop intervention strategies to increase academic success
3. Assess student mental health concerns
4. Help with anger management
5. Provide individual or group counseling

Provide mental health support for teachers and school staff & **Grief and loss support** were the least frequent clinical task by TX school social workers.

# Most Frequent Administrative Services



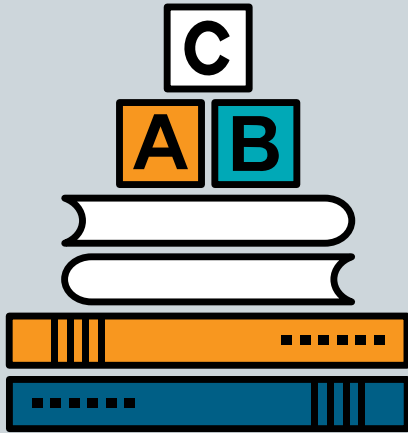
Most school social workers need to **fill out Paperwork & Track student outcomes** daily



**Interpret language for non-English speaking students and families & Supervise student Interns** were the least performed administrative tasks by TX school social workers.

# Least Frequent Administrative Services





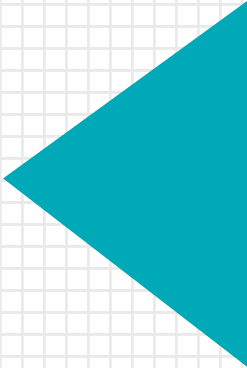
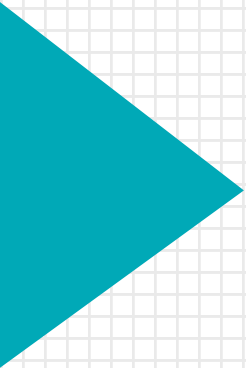
# Barriers

Faced by Texas School Social Workers

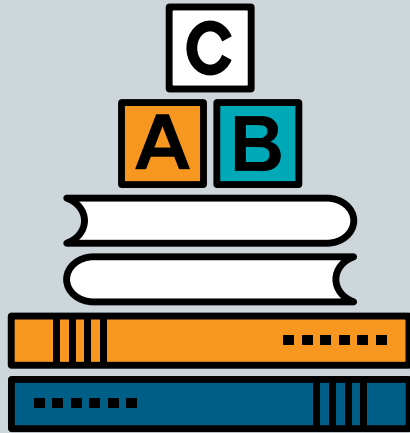
<b>BARRIERS</b>	<b>%</b>
Families need services that are not available in our community	51%
Systemic inequalities in school and community	45%
The role and expectations of a school social worker are unclear/conflicting	43%
Workload is too high	37%
Require to cover multiple campuses	37%
Social work services are not seen as priority within the school	36%
Need more funding for materials and supplies	34%
Have difficulty accessing students during the school day due to academic instruction/testing	34%
There is stigma related to social work services	33%
Lack of physical space for meetings and groups	31%
Lack of guidance for social work practice in Texas	24%
Lack of clinical supervision/consultation for challenging cases	14%
Lack professional development opportunities to learn skills to implement at my school	13%
Do not feel supported by colleagues	10%
Do not face any barriers	6%



# Barriers faced by TX school social workers



*“I provide classroom guidance lessons in addition to crisis intervention, individual counseling sessions, parent meetings, small groups, and unrelated duties such as car line or lunchroom monitoring. There are 625 students and one of me.”*



# Resources

most needed by school social workers

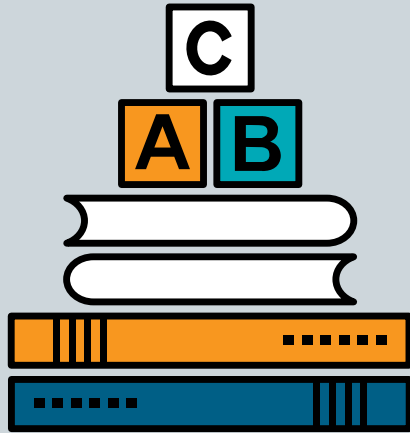
RESOURCES & TOOLS	%
A catalog of mental health screening tools and assessments for children and adolescent	65%
Guidance on evidence-based interventions	62%
Resources for non-English speaking students and families	61%
A catalog of training materials on school social work for staff professional development	56%
Texas specific guide for behavioral health integration in schools	51%
Advocacy materials explaining why school social workers are a good investment	50%
Advocacy materials explaining school social work in the context of the Texas Education Code	48%
Guide on HIPPA and FERPA	43%
Assistance with ethical concerns	42%



## Resources & tools wanted by school social workers

TRAININGS	%
Trauma-informed interventions	50%
Brief therapeutic interventions	50%
Crisis response	49%
Family intervention	47%
Ethics specific to school settings	45%
Developing and facilitating training for school staff	43%
Parent education	41%
Immigrant families	37%
Program evaluation and student outcomes	36%
Funding opportunities for support services / professional development	35%
Use of technology in school social work	35%
Supports for LBGTQ and Trans students	34%
Diversity and inclusion	32%
Multi-Tiered system of supports (MTSS)	32%
Substance use	26%
Child abuse and neglect	25%
Interdisciplinary teamwork	24%
School safety	22%
Developing skills in languages other than English	22%
Special education	22%
Instructional/academic goals	14%

# Trainings wanted by school social workers

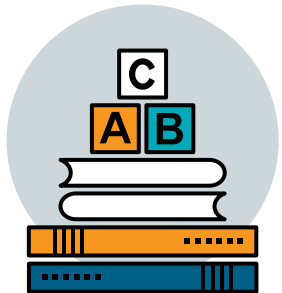
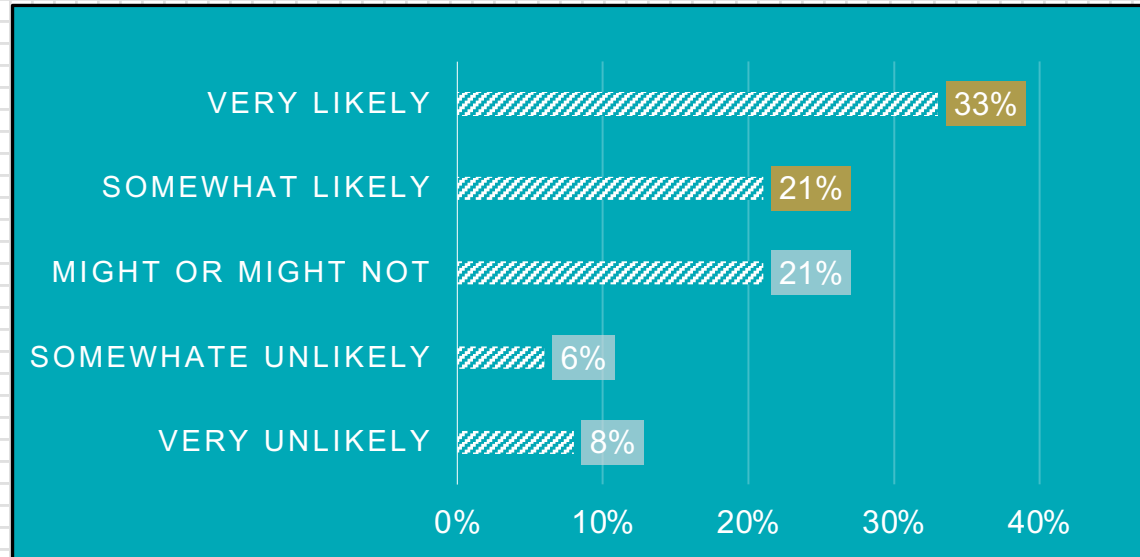


# Education

Attitudes towards earning a school social work certificate

# UT Austin School Social Work Certificate

54% of respondents showed willingness to participate in the school social work certificate program offered by UT Austin Steve Hicks School of Social Work.





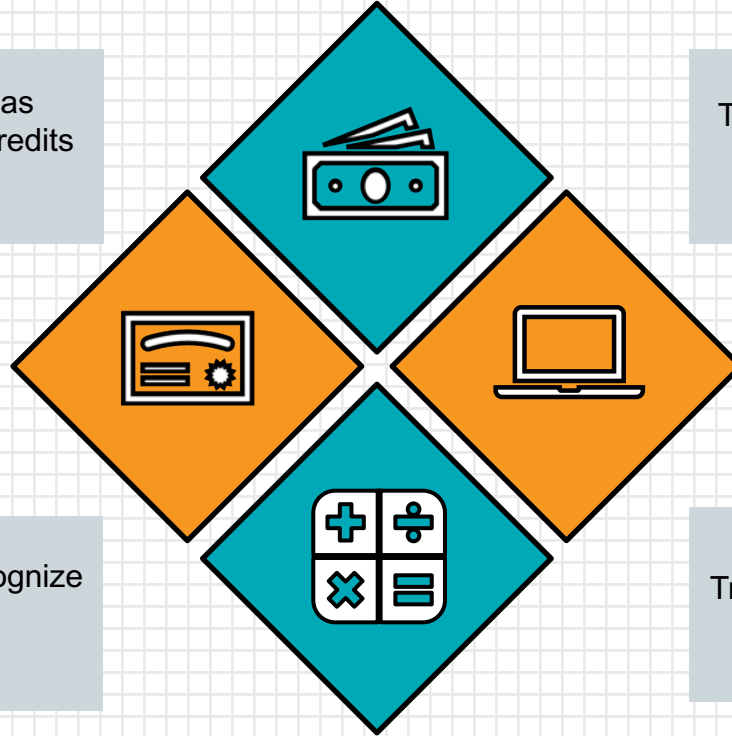
# Top 4 incentives to encourage participation:

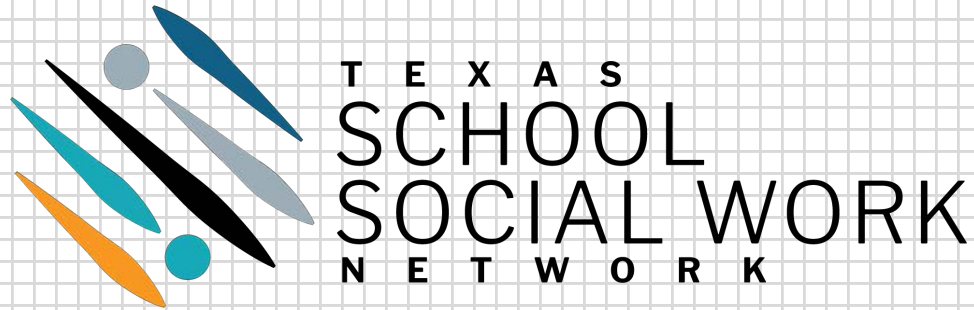
The Certificate counted as Continuing Education Credits for my license

The Certificate program was free

My employer would recognize the Certificate in salary considerations

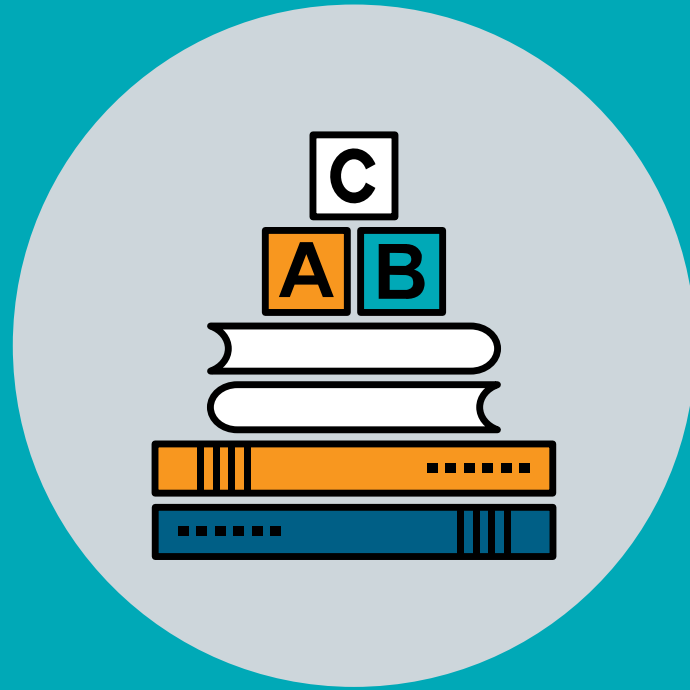
Trainings were offered online





The **Texas School Social Work Network** brings together school social work practitioners, researchers and policy-makers in order to develop guidance, tools and research that school social workers can use in their everyday practice.

Visit <http://bit.ly/TSSWN2021> to learn more



**Thank you**