



RESOLUTION # 2022-2023-014

**RESOLUTION PROCLAIMING THE CELEBRATION OF
NATIONAL SCHOOL SOCIAL WORKER WEEK IN
REYNOLDS SCHOOL DISTRICT**

WHEREAS, “We Rise” is the 2023 theme of the School Social Workers Association of America. In their important role in schools, school social workers are able to light the way, emphasizing the whole child, collaborating with other professionals, linking students and families with needed services, and advocating for students; and

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

WHEREAS, the Reynolds Board of Education and Superintendent of Schools established mental health supports for students as an important budget priority area in 2021-2022; and

WHEREAS, 21 school social workers are employed with Reynolds School District to help students reach their full potential and are specially licensed to offer direct mental health support for students; and

WHEREAS, school social workers are especially skilled in providing services to students who face serious challenges to school success including disability, poverty, discrimination, abuse, neglect, mental illness, homelessness, bullying, familiar stressors, and other barriers to learning; and

WHEREAS, school social workers are more necessary now than any time in recent memory, as more students are struggling with mental and behavioral health disorders, with nearly one in six children, two to eight years old (17.4%) having a diagnosed mental, behavioral, or developmental disorder, and 3.2% of children, three to 17 years old (approximately 1.9 million) have diagnosed depression; and

WHEREAS, school social workers, being licensed mental health professionals in our schools, provide direct services and necessary assessment, interventions, counseling, family outreach, and community referrals; and

WHEREAS, research indicates that school mental health programs improve educational outcomes by decreasing absences, dropout rates, and discipline referrals, while improving academic achievement; and


WHEREAS, school mental health programs are critical to early identification of, and early intervention for, mental health problems; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, The Reynolds School District publicly thanks our school social workers for the vital role they play in the lives of students in our school district.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, The Superintendent or his designee shall celebrate National School Social Worker Week from March 5-11, 2023.

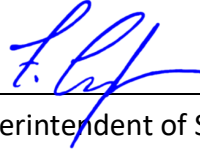
Adopted this 22nd day of February 2023.

Signed:



Chair, Reynolds School Board of Directors

Attest:



Superintendent of Schools / Clerk