



BY THE GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF GEORGIA

A PROCLAMATION

SCHOOL SOCIAL WORKER WEEK

- WHEREAS:** School social workers are uniquely trained to support students who face barriers to academic success, including disability, poverty, discrimination, abuse, neglect, mental illness, homelessness, bullying, family stressors, and other challenges to learning; and
- WHEREAS:** The need for school social workers has increased as more students experience mental and behavioral health challenges, with nearly one in six children ages 2–8 having a diagnosed mental, behavioral, or developmental disorder; and
- WHEREAS:** Access to community-based mental health services is often limited, inaccessible, or insufficient for many children and families; and
- WHEREAS:** School-based mental health services are critical for early identification, prevention, and intervention related to students' mental and behavioral health needs; and
- WHEREAS:** Fewer than one in five children in need of mental health services receive them, and research demonstrates that school-based mental health programs improve educational outcomes by reducing absenteeism, dropout rates, and disciplinary referrals while improving academic achievement; and
- WHEREAS:** School social workers serve as vital members of school teams, strengthening partnerships among students, families, schools, and communities to promote student success; now
- THEREFORE:** I, BRIAN P. KEMP, Governor of the State of Georgia, do hereby proclaim March 2-7, 2026, as SCHOOL SOCIAL WORKER WEEK in Georgia.

In witness thereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the Executive Department to be affixed this 19th day of February in the year of our Lord, Two Thousand and Twenty-Six.



B. P. Kemp

GOVERNOR

ATTEST

Lauren M. Curry

CHIEF OF STAFF