



International Network for School Social Work

<http://internationalnetwork-schoolsocialwork.htmlplanet.com>

Contact mhuxtable@olympus.net

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Editor: Marion Huxtable

Share Your Story in the International Journal of School Social Work

Brenda Coble Lindsey, Ed.D., Teaching Professor at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign and Managing Editor of the International Journal of School Social Work

The International Journal of School Social Work (IJSSW) invites you to share your story about what you are doing that works in your practice setting. The IJSSW is a free, open access online journal dedicated to raising awareness about school social work services around the world. The journal publishes two issues a year and features several types of articles: Practice Wisdom (narratives written by social workers about their work in different regions of the world); Student Perspectives (written by social work students describing their experiences as social workers in schools); International Practice (research or descriptions of school social work practice in a particular region or country); and Evidence-Informed (original research or reviews of research based programs). Our goal is to publish articles that represent a variety of perspectives focused on social work in schools that are useful to practitioners everywhere.

You may have never considered writing a piece for the journal and wonder why you should. The most important reason is because you are doing creative things and sharing your story would be useful to practitioners around the world. Although we live and work in different countries, the children you work with are the same children that colleagues around the world work with. Sharing your story is a meaningful way to help other practitioners learn new ideas that they can use in their work. We can learn from each other and you can discern if the ideas could work in your practice and how you would use them.

Writing your article

IJSSW articles should be written in English. Avoid using jargon. Write clear, precise language for readers who may not read English easily. If you are not used to writing in English, find a friend or colleague to proof your article before you submit it. The suggested length of articles varies depending on the type of article. Student Perspective pieces are 1000 words while Practice Wisdom pieces can range anywhere from 2500 to 7000 words. Evidence-Informed articles should be approximately 12,500 words or 25 pages including references (formatted according to the American Psychological Association 7th edition) and appendices.

Information for authors is at <https://newprairiepress.org/ijssw/policies.html> and APA format at https://owl.purdue.edu/owl/research_and_citation/apa_style/apa_formatting_and_style_guide/general_format.html

How articles are reviewed

All articles submitted to IJSSW are first screened by the editors to see if they are appropriate for the journal. If they are, the next step is for articles to be evaluated by 2 peer reviewers who are volunteers with expertise in school social work. They will recommend one of the following: 1) Accept the article, 2) Revise and resubmit - authors are given feedback and encouraged to make changes, 3) Reject the article. This process takes about three months. Articles accepted for publication are assigned to an upcoming issue. All issues are published online at <https://newprairiepress.org/ijssw/>.

IJSSW editorial staff are strongly committed to helping social workers turn their ideas for articles into publishable pieces that resonate with practitioners. **We welcome the opportunity to discuss your ideas and help you share your story by writing an article.** Please feel free to reach out to us with questions or for more information. Our contact information is Brenda Coble Lindsey (Managing Editor) blindsey@illinois.edu or Leticia Villarreal Sosa (Editor-in-Chief) at leticia.villarr@gmail.com. Check out the latest issues at IJSSW at <https://newprairiepress.org/ijssw/>.

What to write about

The mission of school social work is to help all children get a good education. School social workers tackle all the obstacles that stand in the way. Since these obstacles are universal, school social workers everywhere want to learn a variety of ways to remove these barriers that stop children from being educated. You probably work on many of these issues, so writing about successful interventions that you are using would make a valuable article. Take a look at the list and write about your successes in dealing with these problems.

Poor attendance, disabilities, poverty, food insecurity, anxiety, depression, behavioral problems, family problems, exclusion, bullying, equity for LGBTI students, Covid, teenage pregnancy, poor classroom management, dropping out, health problems, homelessness

Another focus for your article could be special activities or programs that you have developed successfully. This could include prevention programs or special kinds of intervention that work well in a school setting. Here are some ideas that readers of the journal would find valuable. It is a good idea to have an objective measure of your success, such as documentation of improved attendance, reduction in the need for disciplinary action or increased parental involvement in school activities. Or you could show how you are using methods that have been shown through research to be effective. Here are some ideas about what might interest readers. Including a case study helps.

Programs for increasing attendance, promoting resilience, developing social skills, reducing bullying, improving decision-making skills, developing teamwork, addressing ethical issues, consulting with teachers on behavior management, providing field practice for social work students, using technology, using art therapeutically, home visiting, working with immigrants, working within various cultures