

INFORMED CONSENT

Title:

They Don't Know What We Do:" School Social Workers' Perception of Educational Leaders

Protocol Number: 32793

Investigators:

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Research Consent Summary

You are being asked for your consent to voluntarily participate in a study because you are a social worker. This document provides a brief summary of this study. It describes the key information that will help inform your decision whether to take part in this research.

Why am I being invited to participate in this research?

You are invited to take part in this study because you are a school social worker currently working in an educational setting. The purpose of this research is to learn more about how school social workers experience educational leadership, including the ways leaders support (or limit) their role. Your perspectives are important because they will help provide a better understanding of the challenges and opportunities that school social workers face in schools today.

This research is being done to better understand how educational leadership affects the work and job satisfaction of school social workers. School social workers are often called on most during times of crisis, but their potential contributions to school-wide efforts in mental health, equity, and academic support are not always recognized. By exploring school social workers' experiences and perspectives, this study aims to highlight both the barriers and opportunities that exist in their roles. The goal is to provide information that can help educational leaders and policymakers create stronger, more sustainable support for school social workers in schools.

How long will I be in this research study?

Voluntary participation in this study involves a one (1) 15–20-minute survey and one (1) interview that will last 45-60 minutes. At the end of the survey, a link will be provided to invite participants voluntarily for an interview.

What happens if I agree to participate in this research?

Participants will participate in a one-time, 15–20-minute survey. After completing the survey, participants will click on another link to be invited to voluntarily participate in the interview portion of the study. Interviews will be conducted by one-on-one Zoom or phone. The one-time 45-60-minute interview (phone or virtual meeting) with the researcher. The surveys will be completed anonymously and will be administered online via Qualtrics. Participants can voluntarily participate in a survey. After completing the survey, participants will click on another link to be invited to voluntarily participate in the interview portion of the study. Interviews will be conducted by one-on-one Zoom or phone. This will occur from Fall 2025 to Spring 2026.

This interview represents the extent of involvement. While it is the nature of interviews to know the name of the participant, no personal identifying information will appear in the final report.

What are the risks of this research?

All efforts will be made to keep information confidential. The main risk is a possible breach of confidentiality if your information were to be seen by someone outside the researcher and PI. To reduce this risk, your name will not be used, and all information will be stored on secure, password-protected systems. Pseudonyms will be assigned, and any identifying details will be removed from transcripts or reports. If a breach were to occur, you would be informed, and steps would be taken immediately to protect your privacy.

How can being in this research benefit me?

While there may not be direct personal benefits, many school social workers find value in taking part in this type of study. Participation offers an opportunity to pause and reflect on their own experiences, while also knowing that their voice will be represented in research that highlights the important work of school social workers. By sharing their perspective, they will be contributing to a study that may help educational leaders better understand and collaborate with school social workers in the future. Their involvement can also help shape conversations and policies that support the profession and benefit those who come after them.

What happens to the information collected in this research?

The Informed Consent form explaining the study will be provided in the surveys. There will be a verbal consent provided during each interview by the researcher. Audio recording will be done if consent is provided. At any time, a participant can request the recording to be stopped or paused. No outside transcription services will be used. Written notes will be stored on a password-protected computer in a locked office. No identifiable information will be used in the written notes. Data reported will only be in aggregate form, and no personally identifying information will be publicly reported. In the event that a direct quotation is used, no identifying information will be associated with the direct quotation.

PI and the student researcher will be the only ones with access to the information. Data will be stored and analyzed from Fall 2025 to Spring 2029. Data will be stored with both password protection and encryption, and the hard copy of the interview notes will be maintained until 2029.

Who can answer my questions about this research?

If you have questions, concerns, or complaints about this research, you may email the research team members at the email addresses provided on page 1.

This research is being overseen by an Institutional Review Board (IRB). An IRB is a group of people who perform independent reviews of research studies. You may talk to them at (215) 707-3390 or may contact them via email at irb@temple.edu. You should contact IRB if:

- You have questions, concerns, or complaints that are not being answered by the research team.
- You are not getting answers or responses to your questions from the research team.
- You cannot reach the research team.
- You want to talk to someone else about this research.
- You have questions about your rights as a research subject.

What happens if I agree to participate in this research, but decide later that I no longer want to participate?

Your decision to participate or withdraw your participation will be kept confidential and will not be shared with other participants. The personal identifying information will be known to the researcher and PI. The survey responses are anonymous. You may choose not to answer any questions you do not want to answer, and you can stop the survey at any time before submitting it. Only submitted responses will be included in the study. Interview data can be removed, as the personal identifying information will be known by the researcher and PI.