

## **School Social Work**

Dear Editor,

Schools in our community are facing a multitude of budget cuts that will likely impact the students and families who are already struggling. One group of professionals who quietly and effectively serve in many of our schools are school social workers. These social workers generally focus on improving a child's attendance and performance, working to address various obstacles in the child's neighborhood or home that prevent school success.

Social workers are the "Bootstraps of Texas!" They are held to standards and ethical principles that have been shaped to ensure cultural competence and professionalism. A few examples of these principles are empowering and building upon a student's strengths, providing safeguards for ensuring confidentiality, commitment to work collaboratively within the community, and developing training and educational programs. Social workers are licensed, educated, trained and prepared in a specialized practice.

Please recognize and appreciate how much our social workers contribute to education, not only for our children, but also for our community, our schools, and as change agents out in the world. One of these days, someone in your family may need some bootstraps and it's likely that a social worker will be there to help.

Sincerely,