



Iowa School Social Workers' Association Presents a “Just in Time”

Professional Development Learning Event

Date: Friday, January 29, 2021

Time: 2:00-4:00 pm

Where: Virtual

School Refusal

Evidence-Based Practices for Identifying and Managing School Refusal Behavior

Description: Up to 28% of American school-aged youth refuse school at some time, and this can lead to negative consequences in both the short- and long-term. School professionals, including social workers, are key members of the interdisciplinary teams needed to address school refusal behavior. The purpose of this presentation is to provide an overview of the factors that drive school refusal behavior, as well as evidence-based techniques for supporting students who refuse school.

Importance: When left untreated, school refusal behavior has detrimental consequences for students' success and wellbeing. While the condition is already relatively common, the shift to virtual school has posed some unique challenges for ensuring that children and adolescents stay engaged in school. Additionally, it is anticipated that anxiety-based school refusal may occur even more frequently once there is a widespread shift back to in-person learning. Therefore, it is essential for school professionals to be knowledgeable about school refusal so that it can be identified early, and to ensure that appropriate interventions are applied.

Learning Objectives:

1. Define school refusal and describe associated characteristics
2. Identify the four functions of school refusal behavior
3. Outline evidence-based intervention strategies for school refusal behavior

Register at isswa.org

\$30 for ISSWA Members

\$60 for Non-members

Registration will **close on Wednesday January 27th**. No refunds will be provided after this date. 2 CEUs will be provided to participants.



Presenter Background: Dr. Becky Thomson is a Licensed Psychologist and a Nationally Certified School Psychologist (NCSP) in Michigan. She is the Clinic Director at Thriving Minds Family Services – Chelsea (www.thrivingmindsbehavioralhealth.com), a group practice that specializes in the evaluation and treatment of pediatric anxiety, depression, and behavioral disorders. Dr. Thomson particularly enjoys treating selective mutism and school refusal using evidence-based behavioral and cognitive-behavioral approaches.