

To Whom it May Concern:

My name is Katie Cartnick and I am a school social worker in Farmington Public Schools, working at both the high school and elementary level. As I am only at the elementary school twice per week, I am usually inundated with concerns from teachers when I walk through the door - concerns about a story a child wrote, a picture they drew, a questionable home situation, or general mental health concerns. I am able to meet with the child, assess the situation and make referrals to outside agencies as needed. Without the services of a school social worker, these children's issues would either be dealt with ineffectually at the school by educators not trained in mental health, or all children would be referred to outside agencies, creating longer waiting lists that they already have. As a side note, it often takes 4-10 weeks to get an appointment with a psychiatrist or therapist, when often children have needs that need to be addressed immediately or at least in a timely fashion.

I ask that you please consider these issues when deciding how to make our schools safer and address mental health concerns in children.

Thank you for your consideration.

Katie Cartnick, MSW  
Farmington Public Schools

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