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[www.SSWAAZ.org](http://www.SSWAAZ.org)

SCHOOL SOCIAL WORK ASSOCIATION OF ARIZONA  
P.O. Box 12232 Chandler, AZ 85248

***School Social Work Association of Arizona  
Red for Ed Position Statement***

A School Social Worker's role is primarily to address and support the mental health needs and academic potential of students. We work in conjunction with other educators and the local community to remove barriers to learning and foster social/emotional growth in children. The purpose of the School Social Work Association of Arizona as an organization is to advocate both for students and families, as well as School Social Work practitioners throughout our state.

In conjunction with our national affiliate, the School Social Work Association of America, it is the position of this Association that the needs of Arizona's public school students are not being adequately met under current conditions and funding levels. We believe that it is imperative to address the need for additional capital funds for public schools across the state to ensure that students and staff have the working conditions, materials, and resources required for all children to achieve to their individual potential. We believe that it is necessary to increase the wages of all educators to be nationally competitive in order to attract and retain quality personnel. Furthermore, we believe that additional resources (both financial and otherwise) need to be provided to schools to ensure student and staff safety needs are met in public school buildings and campuses.

One component of the #RedForEd movement includes the possibility of statewide walkouts occurring. We recognize that the decision to participate in a walkout is complex and urge each individual practitioner to carefully weigh all variables and proceed according to his/her personal belief structure. This organization supports both those who ultimately choose to participate in a walkout as well as those who ultimately opt not to participate.

The School Social Work Association of Arizona supports all individuals in the field of education who work directly or indirectly with students, including administrators, certified, and classified staff members, as well as outside organizations that offer resources to students and their families. The School Social Work Association of Arizona fully supports the #RedForEd movement in conjunction with the Arizona Education Association and Arizona Educators United. We urge the Arizona Legislature to consider the requests of the people and take immediate action. Anyone with questions regarding the position of this Association is free to contact us at [SSWAAZ@hotmail.com](mailto:SSWAAZ@hotmail.com).

Emily Phares, SSWAAZ President

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