

Special Education School Social Work Symposium

Advancing Evidence-Based Practice

Presented by Project SWEET-SPED - NMSU School of Social Work

Symposium Agenda

Friday, May 1, 2026 - Dominici Hall, NMSU Main Campus

8:00 – 9:00 AM	<i>Continental Breakfast & Registration</i>
9:00 AM – 12:00 PM	The Role of the School Social Worker in Disrupting the School-to-Prison Pipeline <i>Presented by Disability Rights New Mexico</i> This keynote workshop explores how school social workers can disrupt systemic patterns that push students with disabilities out of schools and into the justice system. Topics include: recognizing discipline disparity, cultivating positive school culture, implementing PBIS, working with School Resource Officers, reducing use of seclusion and restraint, and advocating for students in Manifestation Determination Reviews, suspension/expulsion hearings, and other legal proceedings - broadening our understanding of disability along the way.
12:00 – 1:00 PM	<i>Lunch on Your Own</i>
1:00 – 1:30 PM	Strengthening Advocacy <i>Dr. Kim Knox</i>
1:30 – 2:00 PM	Meaningful Inclusion <i>Dr. Stacy Gherardi, NMSU School of Social Work</i>
2:00 – 2:45 PM	Multidisciplinary Panel: Interprofessional Collaboration in SpED Related Services Practitioners and scholars from special education, early childhood education, bilingual education, and social work come together to discuss the realities and opportunities of interprofessional collaboration to better support students and families.
2:45 – 3:00 PM	<i>Afternoon Refreshments</i>
3:00 – 4:00 PM	Power Hour: Sharing Evidence-Informed Interventions Presenters share effective interventions from research and practice.