

**Michelle Ramsey Hawkins, MSW, LMSW**  
**Social Worker/Victim/Survivor/Volunteer**

Michelle R. Hawkins is currently the school Social Worker at IDEA Innovation Academy with IDEA Public School System. Prior to becoming a school social worker, she served as a Child Welfare Supervisor with the Department of Children and Family Services for 12 years. In addition, Hawkins has over 10 years' experience working with DCFS and non-profit organizations as WAE Coordinator, Director of Social Services and Recruitment and Retention Manager. Hawkins is a graduate of Our Lady of the Lake College, Southern University A&E College School of Social Work in Baton Rouge, LA and Southern University at New Orleans School of Social Work in New Orleans.

Given the opportunity to develop and grow a new addition to the educational and social emotional learning programs at IDEA Innovation, Hawkins took on being the social worker for a continual growing campus (elementary and middle school students) until another social worker was added in the 2019-2020 school year. More than 20 programs were developed, but most notable Phoenix Place. Phoenix Place was designed by Hawkins to meet the traditional and non-traditional social work needs of students that would otherwise prevent them from coming to school such as uniforms, the need for clean clothing or a shower, school supplies and much more. A version of Phoenix Place exists at all of the IDEA Louisiana schools and many of the other campuses located in other states. Hawkins, serves as a member of the school Administrative Team, also known as the Lead Team and as the Regional Lead Social Worker for IDEA public schools in the State of Louisiana.

After tragedy struck her family in 2016, Hawkins became an active volunteer with MADD, Mothers Against Drunk Driving. Hawkins participates in many speaking engagements across the state of Louisiana as a representative for MADD including at the New Orleans Saints Training Camp and most recently, a Roll Call Documentary for police reform. Khaiden and Samuels Crew (Team Fly High Boys) is an active team for Walk Like MADD Baton Rouge. In addition, at the encouragement of her son's basketball coach, Hawkins started non-profit organization, Ballin' for the Boys, in the name of her deceased sons, Khaiden and Samuel. Ballin' for the Boys hosts an annual basketball event dedicated to raising awareness about the dangers of drunk/impaired driving. All funds raised are used to provide scholarships to deserving students to assist with the payment of school tuition, books, afterschool programming, etc. Hawkins is a firm believer that if her story changes just one life, then she has done her job.

In addition to being the proud mother of Khaiden and Samuel, Hawkins is also the proud mom of Kaylee, a sophomore at the University of Houston, her bonus baby, 4-year old Jamari and the wife of Gregory. Hawkins is a member of Zeta Phi Beta Sorority Incorporated, a published children's book author and is currently completing the requirements to obtain her clinical social work licensing. When she is not working, volunteering, planning the next Ballin for the Boys event or working on clinical hours, Hawkins is spending time with her family, crafting, reading a good book or working on the content of her next book.