Dean Petersen ES

Request for Information Response

Nevada Department of Education as Provided by

SB 515, Section 23

Social worker or other licensed mental health professional

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To:

Victoria Blakeney
Office for a Safe and Respectful Learning Environment
Nevada Department of Education
700 E. Fifth St.
Carson City, NV 89701
(775) 687-9130
vblakeney@doe.nv.gov

Dr. Tammy Malich
Assistant Superintendent
Education Services Division

CCSD Contact:
Brian Adams, Coordinator
Office of Student Adjudication
Education Services Division
(702)799-0761

SECTION II
NARRATIVE

Dean Petersen Elementary School

Dean Petersen Elementary School is an elementary school facing numerous academic challenges typically associated with high enrollment and a transient population that is predominately of low socioeconomic status. The school's count day enrollment for 2015-16 was 851 students with 4% Asian, 60% Hispanic, 27% Black/African American, 5% Caucasian, 1% Alaska Native/Hawaiian, and 3% Multi-Racial. Additionally, 100% of these students qualify for Free/Reduced Lunch (FRL), 46% have Limited English Proficiency (LEP), and 9% have an Individualized Education Plan (IEP). This school's population is highly mobile, exhibiting a transiency rate of 49.3% in 2014-15. There are currently 57 homeless students enrolled at Dean Petersen Elementary School.

The social worker/mental health professional will provide support to students, staff, parents, and community members at Dean Petersen Elementary School. Specific services for students include assisting students in understanding and accepting self and others, developing intervention strategies to increase academic success, increasing student attendance, emphasizing the importance of an education, helping students develop appropriate social interaction skills, providing crisis intervention, and teaching conflict resolution and anger management. Specific services for parents/families include alleviating family stress to enable their child to function more effectively in school and within the community, assisting parents in accessing and utilizing school and community resources, providing parent's access to programs available to children with special needs, and working with parents to facilitate their support in their child's adjustment to school. Specific services for school personnel include assessing students with mental health concerns, assisting teachers with behavior management, developing staff training programs, educating staff with essential information to better understand factors (cultural, societal, economic, familial, health, etc.) affecting a student's performance and behavior, and providing direct support to staff. Specific services to promote community involvement include advocating for new and improved community/school services to meet the needs of students and families and assisting schools to receive adequate support from social and mental health agencies, helping the system respond effectively to each student's needs, and obtaining and coordinating community resources to meet students' needs. Specific services to promote district initiatives include assisting in development and implementation of programs for identified children with behavioral, social, and/or emotional needs; identification and monitoring of students who are

victims of child abuse and/or neglect; providing case management for students and families requiring multiple resources; and providing consultation regarding related Nevada Revised Statutes (NRS), mental health standards, and district/school policies and procedures.

The proposed social worker/mental health professional at Dean Petersen ES will assist with all aforementioned initiatives, as well as work alongside the counselor and Community in Schools staff, and attend and participate in staff meetings/trainings. The person selected for this position will establish and maintain regular communication with families in an effort to establish home/school partnerships. This position will further assist families in connecting with community resources (mental health/behavioral, medical, basic needs), provide follow-up on recommendations provided by school personnel, and educate parents/staff with regard to mental health, behavioral, and parenting information/strategies. This position will assist school administration with ensuring compliance with Senate Bill 504 by providing counseling and follow-up to students involved in bullying allegations (targets and perpetrators). He/She will establish relationships with community partners and coordinate/support efforts to improve the school climate. Facilitating small groups, providing positive opportunities for students to serve in leadership positions, and establishing relationships with students and parents to support academic and behavioral success will also be a part of the role of this individual.