John Tartan 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:

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SECTION II
NARRATIVE

John Tartan Elementary School

John Tartan Elementary School serves approximately 630 students in grades pre-kindergarten to fifth grade. Tartan ES faces a high level of transiency rate of 37.70%, much higher than the school district, and is predominately of low socioeconomic status, with a Free and Reduced percentage rate of 73%, which has steadily increased over the past 3 years. The students of Tartan face numerous academic, social, behavioral, and emotional challenges. The school's count day enrollment for the 2014-15 school year was 630 students with 3.77% Asian, 34.54% Hispanic, 16.80% White/Caucasian, 1.88% Pacific Islander, and 11.15 of Two or More Races. Additionally, 21.35% of the student population has an IEP and 12.72% are ELL. During the 2015-16 school year, there have been 3 expulsions due to serious behavioral offenses and 5 suicide protocols conducted due to mental health concerns. During the 2015-16 school year, there have been 213 discipline referrals submitted by staff members for inappropriate student behavior. Tartan ES has approximately 21 Title 1 Homeless families and there are approximately 30 students in foster care. Lastly, there are a significant number of students with parents that are incarcerated and deployed out of the country.

The social worker/mental health professional will provide support to students, staff, parents, and guardians of Tartan Elementary School. Specific supports include identifying students with significant mental health needs, facilitating individual and small group counseling sessions to students based on needs, providing assistance to families that are living in at-risk situations, increasing parental involvement, collaborating with families whose students have a high number of absences and tardies, teaching problem solving, social skills, and anger management strategies to students, conducting workshops on parenting strategies to increase positive student behavior, training staff to become culturally responsive to student/family situations, working with staff on effective behavioral management strategies, and assisting families with accessing resources within the community. This person will assist with the school-wide positive behavior intervention team with school-wide positive behavior expectations and the effective implementation. Overall, the social worker/mental health professional will promote community and family involvement to increase the communication and connection between school and home, therefore helping the students achieve at higher level academically, behaviorally, emotionally, and socially.

The proposed social worker/mental health professional at Tartan ES will assist with the above mentioned responsibilities, as well as work alongside the counselor, administration, Response to Instruction Team, psychologist, and other staff members, as well as participate in staff meetings, professional development sessions, and trainings. This person will conduct and facilitate family meetings with staff members on a regular basis and contribute knowledge, skills, and strategies, in an empathetic and caring manner, related to mental health and the emotional needs of the student. This position will provide assistance to the administration with ensuring compliance with the Senate Bill 504 by counseling students involved in bullying allegations, and work collaboratively with the counselor to facilitate a proactive solution to bullying and aggressive behavior. Weekly support groups will be conducted to provide students with supports and strategies to overcome personal difficulties. The person will develop and facilitate parent support groups focused on promoting parental engagements, effective behavioral strategies for school success, and improved attendance.