Durango HS

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

Durango High School

Durango High School is large high school facing both academic and personal/social challenges. The school's enrollment as of 12/07/15 was 2,299 students. Most noticeably is our high suicide protocol completion rate: Durango High School has completed 40 suicide protocols since August, 2015, for an average of 2.5 students per week. Durango's low socioeconomic status, low graduation rate (77.63%), and high ELL & LEP population (22.8%) create a diverse and dynamic student body in need of both academic and personal/social support.

The social worker/mental health professional will provide support to students, staff, parents, and community members at Durango High School. Specific services for students include assisting students in creating and sustaining coping skills, providing crisis intervention, and teaching conflict resolution and anger management by gender in small groups. Specific services for families include providing community resources for parents and working with parents to facilitate their child's personal and social development. Specific services for school personnel include assessing students with mental health concerns (both self-harm and suicide ideation), providing teachers with information and resources for behavior management, and providing staff with essential information and research to better understand the cultural, economic, and familial factors that negatively affect student performance.

The proposed social worker/mental health professional at Durango High School will assist students, teachers, counselors, and parents by attending and participating in weekly counselor meetings and professional development sessions and trainings. The person selected for this position will conduct home visits and meet with families regularly. This position will also provide assistance to school administration with ensuring compliance with Senate Bill 504 by counseling students involved in bullying allegations, both victims and bullies, as well as providing guidance and training to staff and teachers on positive school climate strategies. It is expected that weekly counseling and/or support groups will be created for parents and students, based on the identified needs and trends of the population.