Walter Jacobson ES

Request for Information Response

Nevada Department of Education as Provided by

SB 515, Section 23

Social worker or other licensed mental health professional

December 14, 2015

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

Walter Jacobson Elementary School

Walter Jacobson ES has two Severely Emotionally Challenged classrooms that service students in grades K-5 with identified emotional disturbances. The severity of behavioral issues has and can negatively impact the climate and safety of the entire school-students and staff.

The student demographics of Jacobson ES are as follows:

Total student count: 621
Boys: 334
Girls: 287
American Indian/Alaskan Native: Less than 1%
Asian: 5%
Hispanic: 42%
Black/African American: 12%
Caucasian: 30%
Hawaiian/Pacific Islander: 2%
Multi-racial: 9%
Free/Reduced Lunch: 62%
Limited English Proficient: 20%
Individualized Education Plan: 12%

A social worker/mental health professional could help in the following ways:

Students: Coping strategies, development of interventions for academic and behavioral success, development/implementation of appropriate social skills, crisis intervention, anger management, friendship development skills and conflict resolution

Parents: Community resources to support positive family interactions, parenting classes, crisis intervention, stress management, resources for students with special needs

Staff: Crisis intervention, positive behavioral and academic strategies, understanding of various cultural factors and how they affect academic and behavioral success, behavioral interventions, training regarding mental health issues

Specific services to promote district initiatives include assisting in the development and implementation of programs for identified children with behavioral, social and/or emotional needs; developing and training on alternatives strategies for excessively disruptive children; identification and monitoring of students who are victims of child abuse/neglect; case management for students and families that require multiple resources, providing consultation regarding mental health standards and district/school policies and procedures.

The social worker/mental health professional at Jacobson ES would assist with the aforementioned initiatives, as well as work collaboratively with the school counselor, attend and participate in staff meetings, facilitate professional development trainings and actively participate in the RTI process. This person would also, if applicable, conduct home visits and build a positive and trusting rapport with our students and their families. This person would share knowledge, skills and techniques regarding mental health and human behavior with parents and staff members. This person would develop and facilitate weekly support groups and provide interventions and strategies to assist children with coping strategies and how to overcome obstacles that may negatively affect school performance. This person would also develop and facilitate parent meetings and support groups that would increase parent understanding and engagement in the school process, as well as identify factors that could potentially negatively impact school achievement. The person would help to identify, mobilize and coordinate school and community resources in order to maximize student performance and meet the needs of our students and their families.