Twin Lakes 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

Twin Lakes Elementary School

Twin Lakes Elementary School is an elementary school with challenges associated with a transient population that is predominately of low socioeconomic status. Based on count day data during the 2015-2016 school year, our student population of 667 students was 81% Hispanic, 9% Black, 5% White and 2% two or more races. Although our Average Daily Attendance rate is 96% as reported on our 2014-2015 School Accountability report, only 52% of our students have perfect attendance in the month of October and 56% of students have perfect attendance in the month of November during the 2015-2016 school year. Additionally, 92% of our students receive Free and Reduced Lunch and 100% of our students receive free breakfast. Finally, and most notably, we have 192 of our families are either homeless or on a residential affidavit.

The social worker/mental health professional will provide support to students, staff, parents, and community members at Twin Lakes ES. Specific services for students include assisting students in understanding and accepting self and others, developing intervention strategies to increase academic success, 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 community, assisting parents in accessing and utilizing school community resources, providing parents 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, assisting teachers with behavior management, developing staff training programs, educating staff with essential information to better understand factors affecting student 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 need, and obtaining 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; developing and training on alternative programs and strategies for truants, and excessively disruptive students; 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 Twin Lakes will assist with all aforementioned initiatives, as well as work alongside the counselor, attend and participate in staff meetings, professional development sessions and training. The person selected for this position will conduct home visits and meet with families regularly, contribute knowledge, skills, and techniques in the areas of mental health and human behavior to parents and school team members. This position will provide assistance to school administration with ensuring compliance with Senate Bill 504 by counseling students involved with bullying allegations, both the targets as well as the bullies. The person will provide guidance and training on positive climate strategies as well. It will be expected that he/she will develop and facilitate weekly support groups and provide students with strategies to cope with and overcome difficulties impacting school performance. He/she will develop and implement parent support groups and activities that promote parent involvement/engagement, as well as identify challeng3es in a child's living situation that may affect the child's adjustment, performance, and attendance in the educational setting. He/she will identify, mobilize, and coordinate school and community resources to enable students to learn as effectively as possible both in the home and the school setting. Additional the person will plan, conduct, and participate in educational workshops and presentations while serving as a member of school teams. As a member of the teams, he/she will be expected to provide information related to planning for the educational needs of children to the staff and community.