Grant Sawyer MS

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

Grant Sawyer Middle School

Grant Sawyer Middle School faces numerous challenges typically associated with a transient population and low socioeconomic status. Our school's count day enrollment for 2015-2016 was 1265 students with 0.4% American Indian/Alaskan Native, 13.1% Asian, 46.4 % Hispanic, 13.6% Black/African American, 17.1% Caucasian, 2.7% Hawaiian/Pacific Islander, and 6.6% Multi-Racial. Additionally, 71% of our students qualify for Free/Reduced Lunch (FRL), 23.7% students have Limited English Proficiency (LEP), and 10.4% students have an Individualized Education Plan (IEP). For the 2014-2015 school year, our school's population exhibited a transiency rate of 26%. We currently have 38 homeless students and 4 foster care students enrolled at Sawyer Middle School. We also have 87 students on residential affidavits and many family members who are raising our students that are the not the biological parents. Due to the number of high risk/high utilizers for suicide protocols (6) and re-entry action plans for students who have been hospitalized (4), Sawyer personnel (both of our counselors, school psychologist, and school nurse) attended a special training in the month of October.

The social worker/mental health professional, at Grant Sawyer Middle School, would provide support to our students, staff, parents, and community members. He or she would provide students with assistance in understanding and accepting self and others, develop intervention strategies to increase their academic success, develop appropriate social interaction skills, provide crisis intervention, and teach conflict resolution and anger management. He or she would provide parents/guardians/families with assistance in alleviating family stress and enable the student to function more effectively in school and community, assist parents/guardians/families in accessing and utilizing school and community resources, provide parents/guardians/families needed programs or resources for students with special needs, and work with parents to facilitate support in the student's adjustment to school. He or she would provide support for our school personnel (teachers, staff, and administration) in assessing students with mental health concerns, assist with behavior management, and provide professional development training for teachers and staff to better understand various factors (cultural, societal, economic, family, health, etc.) affecting student academic performance and behavior. He or she would support community involvement by advocating, obtaining, and coordinating for new and improved community/school services or resources to meet the needs of our students and families, and assist our school in

receiving adequate and effective support from social and mental health agencies for each our student's needs. He or she would promote development and implementation of programs for identified children with behavioral, social, and/or emotional needs, develop and train on alternative programs and strategies for truant students and excessively disruptive students, identify and monitor students who are victims of child abuse and/or parent/guardian neglect, provide case management for students and families requiring multiple resources, and provide consultation regarding related Nevada Revised Statutes (NRS), mental health standards, and district/school policies/procedures and initiatives.

The social worker/mental health professional would assist Sawyer Middle School with all above-mentioned initiatives. He or she would work alongside the counselors, meet with families regularly, and contribute knowledge, skills, and techniques in the areas of mental health and human behavior to parents and school team members. He or she would plan, conduct, and participate in educational workshops and presentations, while serving as a member of school leadership and counseling teams. He or she would provide information related to planning for the educational and social needs of our students, as well as provide guidance and training on positive school climate strategies. He or she would assist school administration by counseling students involved in bullying allegations, both the targets and the bullies. The social worker/mental health person would meet with parents/guardians/families to provide guidance and training with strategies involving bullying and truancy. He or she would develop and facilitate weekly support groups and provide students with coping strategies to overcome difficulties impacting academic and behavioral performance at school. He or she would develop and implement parent/guardian/family support groups and activities that promote their involvement and engagement at school. He or she would identify challenges in students' living situations that may affect the adjustment, performance, and attendance in the educational setting. He or she would identify and coordinate school and community resources to enable students to learn as effectively as possible. He or she would visit siblings at the feeder elementary and high schools to ensure that the needs of the entire family are being met.