J. Harold Brinley MS

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

J. Harold Brinley Middle School

J. Harold Brinley MS has approximately 970 at-risk students who face academic challenges associated with a predominantly low socioeconomic status. The school's ethnic population is 2% Asian, 63% Hispanic, 20% Black, 9% White, and 6% two or more races, with 87% being on free and reduced lunch. 12% of the student population has an IEP, with 26% being coded as ELL. Brinley MS has four self-contained special education programs that service a wide spectrum of students from mentally challenged to autism. Brinley MS also experiences a 35% transiency rate with its population.

The social worker/mental health professional will provide further support to staff, students, and parents at Brinley MS. Specific services will include cultural competency training, crisis intervention, helping students to develop appropriate interaction skills at school and home, and teaching conflict resolution strategies. Other services would include assessing student with mental health concerns, providing direct support to the staff, advocating for parents to obtain outside resources as necessary. The social worker would also assist with truancy issues related to child abuse and neglect as related to Nevada Revised Statutes.

The social worker/mental health professional would be used alongside the counselors, psychologist, and Special Education Facilitator. The professional would contribute expertise in staff meetings, multi-disciplinary teams, and in helping parents obtain services for their child. This position will also provide support for Senate Bill 504 by counseling students involved in bullying allegations and provide guidance to help create a more positive school climate. The position would also conduct home visits as necessary or provide after-hours parental workshops in areas of need.