Betsy Rhodes 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

Betsy Rhodes Elementary School

Betsy Rhodes is an elementary school with a 2015/2016 count day population of 670 students. As indicated in the 2014/2015 school accountability report, the makeup of the student population is as follows; 2.71% Asian, 23.49% Hispanic, 7.83% Black/African American, 52.11% Caucasian, and 12.35% Multi-Racial. Additionally 36.75% of these students that qualify for Free/Reduced Lunch (FRL), 5% have Limited English Proficiency (LEP), and 14.01% have an Individualized Education Plan (IEP).

The student population has been in transition since the recession. The zip code the school resides in was heavily hit by the housing market crisis with an increase of approximately 25% of the FRL population. Our school population just misses the targets for additional support, such as Title I. However, nearly 40% of our population would qualify for Title I services that are not funded at the school level.

The proposed social worker/mental health professional will work alongside the counselor, attend and participate in staff meetings, professional development sessions and trainings. The person selected for this position will conduct home visits and meet with families regularly, to provide services in helping those with mental health care and medical needs and hardship, while providing parents with techniques and positive parenting skills. This position will provide assistance to school administration with ensuring compliance with Senate Bill 504 by counseling students involved in bullying allegations, both the targets as well as the bullies, as well as providing strategies and training on positive school climate strategies. 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, academic and behavioral. He/she will develop and implement parent support groups and activities that promote positive parent involvement/engagement. Identify challenges in a child's living situation (home, school, and community) that may affect the child's adjustment, performance, and attendance in the educational setting. As our numbers increase based on mental health care needs and economic hurdles, this person would be able to support the families more and provide better care and follow-through. He/she will plan, facilitate, and participate in educational workshops and presentations while serving as a member of school teams and provide information related to planning for the educational needs of children.

The proposed social worker/mental health professional at Rhodes ES will assist with all aforementioned initiatives, as well as work alongside the counselor, attend and participate in staff meetings, professional development sessions and trainings. 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 participate on the school's PBIS and RTI teams giving support / suggestions for school climate and mental health. This position will provide assistance to school administration with ensuring compliance with Senate Bill 504 by counseling students involved in bullying allegations, both the targets as well as the bullies, as well as providing guidance and training on positive school climate strategies. 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, academic and behavioral. He/she will develop and implement parent support groups and activities that promote parent involvement/engagement. Identify challenges in a child's living situation (home, school, and community) that may affect the child's adjustment, performance, and attendance in the educational setting. Identify, mobilize, and coordinate school and community resources to enable students to learn as effectively as possible in the educational setting. Plan, conduct, and participate in educational workshops and presentations while serving as a member of school teams and provide information related to planning for the educational needs of children. This position will be crucial in not only providing support to the overall school community, but assist in developing and implementing a plan that becomes part of the culture of the school and ensures sustainability of a positive and supportive school community for all students.