Clifford O. (Pete) Findlay 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

Clifford O. (Pete) Findlay Middle School

Findlay MS serves approximately 1300 at-risk students who face numerous challenges both in and outside of school. We have a large transient population with a predominately low socioeconomic status. The school's count day enrollment for 2015-2016 was 1,300 students with 0.2% American Indian/Native Alaskan, 4.9% Asian, 39.3% Hispanic, 35% Black/African American, 11% Caucasian, 2% Hawaiian/Pacific Islander, and 7.6% Multi-Racial. Additionally, 77.16% of these students qualify for Free/Reduced Lunch (FRL), 13% have Limited English Proficiency (LEP), and 16% have an Individualized Education Plan (IEP). Additionally, Findlay MS is highly mobile, exhibiting a transiency rate of 31.5% for the 2014-2015 school year. We also have 40 homeless students enrolled.

The social worker will provide support to students, staff, parents, and community members at Findlay Middle School. Those services will include assisting students in understand and accepting self and others, developing intervention strategies to increase academic success, helping students acquire appropriate social interaction skills, providing crisis intervention, and teaching coping skills and anger management. Specific services for parents and families include assistance in acquiring and utilizing school and community resources, providing parents access to programs available to children with special needs, and working with parents to accommodate their support in their child's adjustment to school. Specific services for school personnel include assessing students with mental health concerns, assisting teachers with behavior/classroom management, developing staff training programs to educate them on the various cultural, socioeconomic, and familial factors impacting student's behavior and performance as well as providing direct support to staff. Services needed to promote community involvement include advocating for new and improved community/school services to meet the needs of students and families and assisting the school to receive support from social and mental health agencies as well as helping the system and community resources effectively respond to students' individual needs. Services to promote district initiatives include assisting in development and implementation of programs for truants, delinquents, and excessively disruptive students. The social worker will also identify and monitor students who are the victims of abuse or neglect and provide case management for those students and families and students requiring multiple resources and provide consultation regarded related Nevada Revised Statutes, mental health standards, and school/districts policies and procedures.

The proposed social worker at Findlay Middle School will assist with all aforementioned initiatives, as well as work alongside the counseling office, 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 on a regular basis, contribute knowledge, skills and techniques in the areas of mental health and human behavior to parents and school team members. This person will assist the counseling department with SMART goals (reducing violent behaviors), truancy court, family nights, Positive Behavior Intervention and Support (PBIS), and Connections (behavior management program). This position will assist school's administration team in ensuring that Senate Bill 504 is being followed by counseling students involved in bullying accusations, both the targets as well as the bullies, as well as providing guidance and training to develop positive school climate strategies, including participation with the Operation Respect/Welcoming Schools (OR/WS) anti-bullying committee. The social worker will be expected to develop and facilitate weekly support groups and provide students with strategies to cope with difficulties in both academic and behavioral aspects in the educational setting. He or she will also develop and implement parent support groups and activities that promote parent involvement and engagement. The social worker will analyze student living conditions that may affect the child's adjustment, performance and attendance at school. He or she will also be expected to identify, mobilize and coordinate school and community resources to enable students to learn as effective as possible in the educational setting. This person will also plan, conduct and participate in educational workshops as well as assisting with the school improvement team.