Bonanza HS

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:

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

Bonanza High School

Bonanza High School is a high school facing numerous academic challenges typically associated with high enrollment and a transient population that is predominately of low socioeconomic status. The school's count day enrollment for 2015-16 was 2,119 students with 0.7% American Indian/Alaskan Native, 4.3% Asian, 51.2% Hispanic, 11.1% Black/African American, 26.7% Caucasian, .95% Hawaiian/Pacific Islander, and 5.0% Multi-Racial. Additionally, 58.4% of these students qualify for Free/Reduced Lunch (FRL), 10.6% have Limited English Proficiency (LEP), and 12.5% have an Individualized Education Plan (IEP). The graduation rate for 2014-15 was 72.05%. Additionally, this school's population is highly mobile, exhibiting a transiency rate of 22.9% in 2014-15. Most notably is our homeless student population. The school currently has 41 homeless students enrolled at Bonanza High School.

Because of the complex and diverse needs of our students at Bonanza High School, the social worker/mental health professional will provide services that can include, but not be limited to: (1) school-community liaison (2) services to school personnel, (3) services to parent/families, and (4) services to students. Respectively, this would provide Bonanza High School with the capacity to obtain and coordinate community resources to meet students' needs, advocate for new and improved community/school service to meet the needs of students and families, and help our school system respond effectively to each identified child's needs. Secondly, this service could provide staff with essential information to better understand factors (cultural, societal, economic, familial, health, etc.) affecting a student's performance and behavior, assess students with mental health concerns, developing staff in-service training programs, assisting teachers with behavior management, and provide direct support to staff. Third, a social worker/mental health professional can work with parent(s) to facilitate their support in their children's school adjustment, assist in alleviating family stressors to enable the student to function more effectively in school and community, assist parents to access programs available to students with special needs, and assist parents in accessing and utilizing school and community resources. Fourth, a social worker/mental health professional can provide crisis intervention, develop intervention strategies to increase academic success, assist with conflict resolution and anger management, help a student develop appropriate social interaction skills, and assist the child in understanding and accepting self and others.

The proposed social worker/mental health professional at Bonanza HS will assist with all aforementioned initiatives, as well as work along side the counselor(s), 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 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.