Tom Williams 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

Tom Williams Elementary School

Tom Williams ES is located in North Las Vegas, Nevada in one of the oldest neighborhoods in Clark County. It is rated as an underperforming one star, Zoom, Title I, Focus School. Currently, 1077 pre-kindergarten to fifth grade students attend Tom Williams ES. Of the 1077 students, more than 100 of them qualify for Title I HOPE. Approximately 12% of the students have an individualized education plan. Over 93% of the students are identified as Hispanic; 62% of the students are English learners; and all of the students receive free breakfast and lunch. While only 62% of students are identified as English learners, almost all of the students have someone in their home who speaks a language that is not English. Many of Tom Williams ES students are their family's first generation to be educated in the United States. Because they were not educated in the United States, many families do not understand the resources available to them at the school or in the community.

Only 41% of Tom Williams ES third grade students were proficient in reading as measured by the 2013-2014 CRT. Many of the students struggle to learn to read because their basic needs are not being met. A social worker to help the 105 of students who are homeless get a permanent roof over their heads, the 100% of students who receive FRL to get food in their homes as well, and the many students who need glasses or dental work receive the medical care they need would allow the students to be able to focus on learning rather than on their basic needs. While the Tom Williams ES transiency rate is lower than that of CCSD, the 22% of students who are transient are students move from school to school often. This creates gaps in their education and makes it difficult for the children to master grade-level standards and teachers to know how to support and advocate for children they barely know. Working with a social worker may allow those students and their families to gain both residential stability and a consistent advocate for the child. There are seven self-contained programs on campus. Children in these classrooms have some level of difficulty functioning independently in general education classes. A social worker would be a liaison for helping children become more successful in the general education classroom setting. Increased exposure to general education content will increase student achievement.

All Tom Williams ES students and their families will benefit from having a social worker on site. Through professional development and/or individual sessions with parents and community members, the social worker will inform families about available community resources and help those families to

connect with those resources. While the social worker will work with all families who are in need of assistance, he/she will pay particular attention to the families of children who are homeless, transient, and/or in need of medical care.

The social worker will also help staff, students, and parents to increase student achievement by increasing pro-social behaviors on campus. This will be accomplished through professional development sessions and individual work with teachers and parents to develop a better understanding of the goals of misbehavior and ways to allow the child to get those needs met in a pro-social manner. The social worker will also work with the entire school community to develop a better understand of what a bullying is, how to prevent bullying and the negative effects of it, and ways to effectively deal with a bully.