Hal Smith 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

Hal Smith Elementary School

Hal Smith ES is a large elementary school facing numerous academic challenges typically associated with elementary enrollment and a transient population that is predominately of low socioeconomic status. The school's count day enrollment for 2015-16 was 911 students with 2.53% Asian, 50.77% Hispanic, 19.82% Black/African American, 19.27% Caucasian, 1.1%, and 5.73% Multi-Racial. Additionally, 86.23% of these students qualify for Free/Reduced Lunch (FRL), 28.74% have Limited English Proficiency (LEP), and 14.53% have an Individualized Education Plan (IEP). Additionally, this school's population is highly mobile, exhibiting a transiency rate of 44% in 2014-15 which is almost double the rate for CCSD. Most notably is our homeless student population. The school currently has approximately 40 homeless students enrolled at Hal Smith ES.

Hal Smith ES deals with many behavioral, academic, and social problems with students. Students do not come to school with the skills necessary to be successful in a structure classroom environment. Many times, teachers deal more with helping students to learn school rules and procedures than with academic content. The students of Hal Smith have the most difficulty during lunch and recess times and therefore require a dedicated person to teach them how to communicate and resolve differences during those times. The most common cause of disagreements and altercations between students is a result of inappropriate language, bullying and body language. The social worker/mental health professional will provide support to students, staff, parents, and community members at Hal Smith ES. Specific services for students include assisting students in understanding and accepting self and others, developing intervention strategies to increase academic success, helping students develop appropriate social interaction skills, providing crisis intervention, and teaching conflict resolution and anger management. Specific services for parents/families include alleviating family stress to enable their child to function more effectively in school and community, assisting parents in accessing and utilizing school and community resources, providing parents access to programs available to children with special needs, and working with parents to facilitate 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 management, developing staff training programs, educating staff with essential information to better understand factors (cultural, societal, economic, familial, health, etc.) affecting a student's performance and behavior, and providing direct support to staff.

Specific services to promote community involvement include advocating for new and improved community/school services to meet the needs of students and families and assisting schools to receive adequate support from social and mental health agencies, helping the system respond effectively to each student's needs, and obtaining and coordinating community resources to meet students' needs. Specific services to promote district initiatives include assisting in development and implementation of programs for identified children with behavioral, social, and/or emotional needs; developing and training on strategies for excessively disruptive students; providing case management for students and families requiring multiple resources; and providing consultation regarding related Nevada Revised Statutes (NRS), mental health standards, and district/school policies and procedures.

The proposed social worker/mental health professional at Hal Smith ES will assist with all aforementioned initiatives, as well as work alongside the counselor and administration, attend and participate in staff meetings, professional development sessions and trainings. This position would be utilized to assist with teaching students the proper way to deal with disagreements, bully behavior, and inappropriate actions towards them. 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 such as the Behavior Intervention Team, Anti-Bully Team, and School Safety Team as well as provide information related to planning for the educational needs of children.