Joseph Thiriot 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

Joseph Thiriot Elementary School

Joseph Thiriot Elementary School is comprised of students from diverse backgrounds who are predominately of low socioeconomic status. The student population is approximately 750 students. The ethnic make-up of the school population is as follows: 49% Hispanic, 23.4% Black, 9.5% White, 9.6 % Asian, and 6.7% are of two or more races. 13.51% of students have an IEP. 44.29% of the population is ELL and 87.39% of the school qualifies for free and reduced lunch. There is a high transiency rate at Joseph Thiriot ES of 34%. There are 26 students who are homeless. The school is located close to the Las Vegas Strip and many of the students' parents are employed in the service industry in the casinos.

The high transiency rate of our school greatly contributes to students who are far behind their peers academically and because of this and other negative circumstances in their lives, many times act out behaviorally. Joseph Thiriot ES has seen an unusual spike in office referrals during the current school year (up approximately 50% from last year) with new students enrolling at a rate of 5-10 per week. This student population in particular, is in great need of connection to the school and also in great need of services such as tutoring, therapy, and assistance from community agencies. Students and families are in immediate need of the critical services listed above in order to begin an upward path towards academic success and healthy emotional adjustment. Often, the school is the only consistent and positive aspect these students have in their lives.

A social worker/mental health professional would be most helpful in assisting school personnel establish a school to home connection for students. Students often enroll in our school coming from dysfunctional home situations where negative behavior is tolerated or reinforced due to poor parenting and behavior management. This, in turn, results in negative school behavior. A social worker/mental health professional could provide basic skills training, parenting education and behavior modification interventions which would contribute to an emotionally healthy home environment. Positive parent child interactions and a model for discipline that emphasizes self-control and self-esteem would carry over and could be replicated in the school setting, providing the repetition and consistency these students so badly need. Further, the mental health professional could foster frequent home and school communication centered on mutual goals for the student's success. Our special needs population is particularly in need of a liaison that could help

them connect with other families facing the same or similar obstacles and the agencies that serve them. Finally, as an aid to all students struggling academically, this professional could assist in creating plans to help families and teachers move students toward mastery of grade level expectations.