Kathleen and Tim Harney 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

Kathleen and Tim Harney Middle School

Kathleen and Tim Harney Middle School is one of the larger middle schools in both the Clark County School District and the state of Nevada. With a current population of 1826 students, the school faces many of the same issues as other urban schools. The demographic makeup of the school is as follows: American Indian/Alaska Native, .4%; Asian, 7%; Hispanic/Latino, 58.1%; Black or African American, 12.3%; White, 14.4%; Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander, 1.3%; Two or More Races, 4.4%. In addition, 71.98% of students participate in the Free or Reduced Lunch Program, 100% qualify for free breakfast, 14.58% of students are classified as Limited English Proficient, 11.71% have an IEP, the transiency rate is 23.8%, and 2.4% are homeless. Most telling of all, perhaps, is the number of students at each grade level who have failed one or more subjects: Grade 6, 227; Grade 7, 297; and Grade 8, 265.

The social worker will provide support to students, staff, parents and the community at Harney MS. Specific services for students will include assistance in understanding and accepting self and others, development of interventions and strategies to increase academic success, and development of appropriate interaction skills, crisis interventions, conflict resolution and anger management. Specific service for parents/ families will include providing resources for effective family functioning in the school and community, assisting parents in accessing and utilizing school and community resources, and providing resources for parents of children with special needs. The social worker will assist in advocating for the Harney homeless population to ensure any services available were provided. Specific services for school personnel will include collaboration with teachers on classroom behavior management, developing staff training programs, and consulting with staff for a better understanding of cultural, societal, economic, and familial and health concerns that affect student performance and behavior. Specific services to promote community involvement will include advocating for students and families so that adequate support will be provided community agencies and obtaining and coordinating community resources to meet the specific needs of students and their families, including but not limited to foster families. Specific services to promote district services will include assisting in the development and the implementation of programs for identified children with behavioral, emotional and or social needs including truancy, delinquency and excessive disruptive behavior; identifying and monitoring of students who are victims of child abuse and or neglect and providing case management for those students and

their families; 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 Harney M.S. will assist with all aforementioned initiatives as well as collaborate with school counselors and attend and participate in staff meetings and professional development trainings. Potentially, the social worker will: conduct home visits (when necessary), meet with families, offer knowledge of life skills, coping skill techniques, and stress management to students, parents and school staff as needed. Behavior data outcomes from the 13-14 school year and the 14-15 school year determined recorded incidents of bullying doubled from 23 to 66 -- nearly tripling the number of incidents. The social worker will provide assistance by ensuring compliance of Senate Bill 504 by providing follow-up counseling to all students involved in bullying allegations. Outcome data indicates a need for assistance in the areas of mental/emotional health and wellness. During the 2014-15 school year, 33 suicide protocols were completed by trained licensed personnel; 14 suicide protocols have been completed thus far for the 2015-16 school year. The social worker will assist counselors in ensuring the safety of students through crisis intervention for suicide/self-harm protocols, and will assist in the development of re-entry plans and follow-up when students return from psychiatric medical facilities and treatment. The social worker will assist in coordinating, consulting, and collaborating on school and community resources to enable students to learn as effectively as possible in the educational setting.