Marshall C. Darnell 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

Marshall C. Darnell Elementary School

Marshall C. Darnell Elementary School is a large elementary school facing numerous challenges typically found in a school which is approaching a threshold of Free and Reduced Lunch Population students which would increase funding through federal sources. The school can no longer raise money on its own, but does not qualify for additional funds. All allocated staff members are assigned to classrooms or specialized programs. The exception is the school counselor who is assigned the specific duties and curriculum of the district counseling program. The school's count day enrollment for 2015-2016 was 849 students with 3% Asian, 16% Black, 43% Caucasian, 24% Hispanic, <1% American Indian/Native Alaskan, 12% Multi-Racial, and 1% Hawaiian/Pacific Islander. 6% have Limited English Proficiency, 14% have Individualized Education Plans, and the Free and Reduced Lunch (FRL) program participation rate for 2014-2015 was 33%. As a school which does not otherwise qualify for any additional support, access to community programs for families is limited.

The social worker/mental health professional will provide support to students, staff, parents, and community members at Darnell Elementary School. Specific intervention for students would include providing assistance in self-regulation, providing crisis intervention, helping students develop appropriate social interaction skills, and teaching conflict resolution and anger management. Support to parents would include assistance in how to support students academically, access and utilize community resources, and provide instruction in parenting skills. Support to staff members will include instruction in identifying the difference between students who may have mental health issues as opposed to inappropriate behavior. Additional support to staff would include assistance in identifying, accessing and utilizing community resources, as well as instruction in how economic status, cultural background, and familial structural factors impact student performance. The social worker would develop systems to improve community participation in school events and support of school initiatives. With the school counselor and school administration, the social worker would assist in educating students, parents, and staff in how to identify and handle bullying incidents. From the beginning of the 2015-2016 school year, 33 students have been accused of bullying others. 73 incidents of unacceptable school behavior and 5 incidents of outbursts have been recorded.

The social worker/mental health professional at Darnell Elementary School will work closely with school administration, the school counselor, teachers, parents, and students. The individual will coordinate efforts with the school counselor, attend all faculty meetings, participate in relevant committees (Crisis Response, School Safety, Operation Respect/Welcoming Schools), and participate in professional development. The individual will share expertise in mental health and human behavior with staff and parents, and will bridge the school and family in support of positive student conduct and achievement through home visits, parent training, and staff training. This position will provide assistance to school administration with ensuring compliance with Senate Bill 504 by supporting students involved in bullying allegations. The individual will work with the Operation Respect/Welcoming Schools Committee to improve school climate for all stakeholders through lesson implementation support, and facilitation of activities. The individual will assess the need for support groups across each stakeholder group, and will facilitate meetings of those support groups as needed. The social worker/mental health professional will identify needs in individual students' circumstances and will develop and individualized plans to support the child, including accessing community assistance.