Ralph L. Cadwallader MS

Request for Information Response

Nevada Department of Education as Provided by

SB 515, Section 23

Social worker or other licensed mental health professional

December 14, 2015

To:

Victoria Blakeney
Office for a Safe and Respectful Learning Environment
Nevada Department of Education
700 E. Fifth St.
Carson City, NV 89701
(775) 687-9130
vblakeney@doe.nv.gov

Dr. Tammy Malich
Assistant Superintendent
Education Services Division

CCSD Contact:
Brian Adams, Coordinator
Office of Student Adjudication
Education Services Division
(702)799-0761

SECTION II
NARRATIVE

Ralph L. Cadwallader Middle School

Cadwallader Middle School has a higher than average population, with 1570 students. Of our students, 220 of them have Individualized Educational Programs (IEPs). Cadwallader has three self-contained programs, Mentally Challenged Specialized (MCS), Autism, and Specific Learning Disabilities (SLD). 54 students have 504 Plans. 70 students have documented psychological disorders (with the majority of the students having more than one psychological disorder). Our school based Crisis Intervention Team conducted 40 suicide protocols during the 2014-2015 school year. Our current data for the 2015-2016 school year from August to November, includes 36 suicide protocols. This data reflects less than 20 percent the total number of students that underwent the CCSD level one screener. CCSD suicide policy and rating scales include five risk levels. Two of those risk levels will not lead into a complete suicide protocol. However, they will involve parental support in accessing community mental health services.

Cadwallader Middle School will welcome the social worker/mental health professional in hopes that they will provide support to students, staff, parents, and community members. Specific needs of our 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. Our parents will benefit from services assisting them in 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. Services for school personnel would include 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. This professional will benefit our community by promoting involvement through 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.

The proposed social worker/mental health professional at Cadwallader Middle School will assist with all aforementioned initiatives, as well as work alongside the Counselor(s), School Nurse, and Psychologist; attend and participate in staff meetings, professional development sessions and trainings. The assigned professional 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. They will provide assistance to school administration with ensuring compliance with Senate Bill 504 by counseling both the targets as well as the bullies, and provide guidance and training on positive school climate strategies. It will be expected that the professional will develop and facilitate weekly support groups and provide students with strategies to cope with and overcome difficulties impacting school performance, academics and behavior. They will develop and implement parent support groups and activities that promote parent involvement/engagement. The professional will 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. The professional will identify, mobilize, and coordinate school and community resources to enable students to learn as effectively as possible in the educational setting, as well as, plan, conduct, and participate in educational workshops.