Ruby Duncan 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

Ruby Duncan Elementary School

Ruby Duncan Elementary School is a Title 1 Early Childhood Special Education through 5th grade elementary school located in North Las Vegas that serves a diverse student population. According to the official 2015-2016 NDE Validation Day data, the Ruby Duncan Elementary student population consists of Asian (3.6%), African American (33%), White/Caucasian (19.8%), Hispanic/Latino (32.7%), Native American (0.5%), Multi-race (9.3%), and Pacific Islander (1.1%). As a school, 67.3% of students qualify for Free and Reduced Lunch (FRL), up from 63% just a year ago. Additionally, 17.3% of the student population is on an Individual Education Plan (IEP), and 9.5% are deemed to be Limited English Proficient (LEP). Ruby Duncan is currently ranked as a Three Star School based on the Nevada School Performance Framework, but has seen significant staff turnover with 29 of 42 (69%) of Licensed Staff new to the building in the past year and a half. Much of the student population at Ruby Duncan is highly mobile, with a transiency rate higher than that of the district for all five years in existence, 2010-2015. There is also a large homeless student population. Ruby Duncan ES currently has 36 students designated as homeless; however, there are far more who currently reside with other family members or friends who do not officially fall under this designation. In addition, 23 students enrolled are currently in foster care, yet again, there are many more that fall under that system that have since been adopted or have been placed back with parents or with other family members.

A social worker/mental health professional will be crucial to supporting students, staff, parents and the greater Ruby Duncan community. Ruby Duncan has many students with significant needs who habitually display extreme behaviors that necessitate multiple staff and administration interventions to ensure the safety and security of all students. The social worker/mental health professional would be vital in assisting the staff and supporting our high need students. He/she would also be vital in helping to support the established Behavior Intervention Team (BIT) to assist teachers and students in curbing behavior issues and promoting positive behavior supports for all students. This scope would include working with targeted students on anger management, friendship building, bullying, grief, and other social emotional development areas. Additionally, this individual would help in supporting and connect students and families to wrap-around supports already available in the community. These additional supports provided to students and families would allow students to more effectively function in and out of school and would also help to alleviate some of the additional weight and

duties currently being addressed by teachers and other school staff. Additionally, this person would be able to provide staff with trainings and support to better understand and respond to the diverse cultural, societal, economic, familial, and health factors which significantly impact our students and the school.

The proposed social worker/mental health professional would work in concert with the school counselor, site-based strategist, administration, special education teachers, general education teachers and other school staff to help provide support to students and families attending Duncan ES. He/she would be responsible for meeting with parents and families to connect them with school and community services, as well as, meeting with student(s) to provide group and individual support. This individual would help with the immediate response to severe behavior issues freeing up other staff to more appropriately perform their assigned duties. This person would also provide student level support to students involved in bullying, working with both targets and victims, as well as, helping to support a positive school environment for all students. Additionally, this person would support teachers' with their understanding of, and skill development in, supporting the diverse and significant needs of our student population.