Oran K. Gragson ES

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:

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Nevada Department of Education
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SECTION II
NARRATIVE

Oran K. Gragson Elementary School

Oran K. Gragson E.S. is a Title I school with 930 students. The majority of our students belong to one or more of the high risk categories associated with high drop-out rates, high teen pregnancies, low graduation rates, and high prison rates. Our population is 86% Hispanic (CCSD 46%), 57% ELL (CCSD 18%), and 89% Free and Reduced Lunch (CCSD 56%). Our school currently has over 80 residential affidavits (many that we believe to be homeless, but unclaimed) and a 31% transiency. Any single category will place a student at risk; however, many of our students belong to multiple high-risk categories.

Our students contend with many societal fronts: poverty, English as a second language, parents who lack education and often dysfunctional homes. Many of Gragson students enter school unprepared to meet the demands of academic rigor, socialization, and control of emotions due to one or more of the aforementioned issues. These students are frequently referred to the office for classroom disruption, violence towards other students or themselves. Between August 24, 2015, and December 9, 2015, over 283 behavioral referrals were submitted; 122 of the referrals were for aggressive behaviors; 9 assaults on staff members; 17 assaults on students; 4 battery on students; 12 bully; 5 fights. Minimal resources often lead to temporary removals or suspensions (58 Required Parent Conferences and 2 suspensions). Unfortunately, this leads to missed school and less opportunities to show typical-peer progress. The social worker/mental health professional will provide support to our students, families, and staff to support students in developing social skills, coping skills, and anger management. A full time counselor is often left running from one fire to another, with little time or resources to provide full guidance and interventions for those students in high needs. Many of our students/families require resources beyond what our school is able to provide. With the Social Worker Grant, we would be afforded community resources to support our students' emotional and mental health needs. The time to start is with our youngest of students to break the cycle and give them opportunities in life that only an education will offer.

The social worker will work with the counselor to develop a system of interventions for students entering school to ensure the future sustainability of grant. This will include systems of small group meetings, whole group education, and professional development. Although most of the teachers have good classroom management, they are at a loss for the severe behavior issues that are present in nearly every classroom. The social worker will provide tools

for teachers through professional development. Additionally, the social worker will provide training and support for our behavior team that consists of grade level representatives, special education, counselor, and administration. Through the assistance of a social worker, we will be able to address our students' emotional and mental health issues so that they are able to focus on learning and ultimately, graduate.