K.O. Knudson 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

K.O. Knudson Middle School

KO Knudson MS is a large middle school that is a school within a school model focusing on the arts with a population that predominantly consists of students who are categorized as low socioeconomic (76.84% Free Reduced Lunch). KO Knudson's population for the 2015-16 school year is as follows: 1,348 Active Students; 87 % minority specifically; 3.5% Asian; 68 % Hispanic; 10% African American; and 13% white, 5% Multiracial and < than 1 % American Indian. Additionally, 8.5% of the students receive special education services (IEP) as well as 20.4% of our students are ELL. It is significant to note that students come to KO from all over the valley including the alarming 2.4% who are identified as homeless (32 students).

These numbers show a staggering need for support from the school district and a social worker would benefit this population greatly.

Due to the unique focus of the school many of the students tend to represent themselves in various ways. Students tend to have some difficulty expressing their struggles and challenges appropriately and require outside support and counseling.

This year we began a mentoring program with a partnership with GEAR UP working with our most struggling male students. The Social Worker could assist in providing supports with these students.

The Social Worker could also assist in providing supports with our Truancy Diversion program when students express a need to have outside supports, the social worker could assist with connecting the home and resource.

The Social Worker could assist when we have to do our suicide protocols in following up with the families and the outside medical facilities. We have an abundance of students who we do suicide protocols on during the year as well as a large population of self-cutters that this additional support would be valuable.

Also, we have a lot of students who need social skills or coping skills that the social worker could work in conjunction with our counselors and special education teachers in providing support.

Lastly, a social worker could assist with our parent center that we have on campus. We offer parenting classes, ELL classes, computer classes, and many other informative sessions to the parents in our community,

One of the greatest struggles present KO Knudson is seeing the huge student need and not having the ability to provide the support and resources for the struggling students and families. A social worker would be able to not only identify the need of the student body in conjunction with the other stakeholders at the school; they'd also be able to pair students to the many resources available to them. The support network that a social worker would provide could mean the difference between students succeeding and failing at the school level.

The first data where the social worker could provide assistance is with our IEP students (8.5%). At Knudson MS, we are presently working with a part-time SEIF. A social worker could provide the assistance to not only the students, but also the teachers of the students with special needs. They could assist with facilitating meetings, participating in assessments, communicating with parents/guardians, and serve as a general resource for students, families and other school staff.

Knudson MS is a Truancy Diversion Program/SARB school. This resource helps many of our students with the motivation to come to school and the understanding that someone at the school cares enough to check on their attendance on a daily basis. A school social worker could work in congruence with these programs to better communicate social and familial concerns which could be adversely affecting attendance. Additionally, the social worker could assist with home visits and at times assist parents in making the necessary medical appointments or at times transporting the families.

One of the most important areas that the social worker could affect change at Knudson MS would be in the one-on-one meetings that they could facilitate and conduct. There are students that come to this school every year and they are facing struggles outside of the school walls. These struggles range from peer relationships, behavior problems, problems in the community, or even a death in the family. The social worker at Knudson MS could assist with developing social skills coping strategies, and working with parents/families to find positive solutions to problems. This would be especially helpful with our ELL population 20.4% of students. Some of these students and families are from another country and need support both inside and outside of the school. A social worker at Knudson could provide a support system to these stakeholders.

Another area of need is to our 32 homeless students (2.4%). The social worker could assist these students in many ways including assisting with the

procurement of food, housing, medical needs, clothing, tutoring resources; which are available at Knudson and advertised, but perhaps are not utilized as much as they would be with a social worker.

Also, there are incidents with substance and/or domestic abuse students who could benefit from having another safe individual to count on at the campus,