Northwest Career & Technical Academy

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

Northwest Career and Technical Academy

Northwest Career and Technical Academy is the largest of all of the career and technical academies in the Clark County School District. Students apply for acceptance into one of our 10 program areas, and must maintain a minimum grade point average in order to remain in good academic standing at our school. Due to the high academic standards placed upon our students, both self-imposed, and educator imposed, our students experience high levels of academic related stress. Our students come from diverse backgrounds, and cover a wide array of socioeconomic backgrounds as well.

During the 2014 - 2015 academic year, our counseling department completed a high amount of suicide protocols and screeners, as well as re-entry plans for students returning from placements in mental health facilities within our city.

The social worker/mental health professional will provide support to students, staff, parents, and community members at Northwest Career and Technical Academy. Specific services for students include, but will not be limited to, 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, coping skills, and anger management. Specific services for parents/families include 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, even though our special needs population is not large, and working with parents to facilitate their support in their child's adjustment to our school.

Specific services for school personnel include assessing students with mental health concerns, 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. Specific services to promote community involvement include 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. Specific services to promote district initiatives include assisting in

development and implementation of programs for identified children with behavioral, social, and/or emotional needs; developing and training on alternative programs and strategies to prevent drop-outs, truants, delinquents, and excessively disruptive students; identification and monitoring of students who are victims of child abuse and/or neglect; providing case management for students and families requiring multiple resources; and providing consultation regarding related Nevada Revised Statutes (NRS), mental health standards, and district/school policies and procedures.

The proposed social worker/mental health professional at Northwest Career and Technical Academy will assist with all aforementioned initiatives, as well as work alongside the counselors, attend and participate in staff meetings, professional development sessions, and trainings. The person selected for this position 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. This position will provide assistance to school administration with ensuring compliance with Senate Bill 504 by counseling students involved in bullying allegations, both the targets as well as the bullies, as well as providing guidance and training on positive school climate strategies. It will be expected that he/she will develop and facilitate weekly support groups and provide students with strategies to cope with and overcome difficulties impacting school performance, academic and behavioral. He/she will develop and implement parent support groups and activities that promote parent involvement/engagement. 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. Identify, mobilize, and coordinate school and community resources to enable students to learn as effectively as possible in the educational setting. Plan, conduct, and participate in educational workshops and presentations while serving as a member of school teams and provide information related to planning for the educational needs of children.