Pat A. Diskin 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:

Victoria Blakeney
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Nevada Department of Education
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SECTION II
NARRATIVE

Pat A. Diskin Elementary School

Pat A Diskin Elementary School is a Tier I Title I school with 79% of our students receiving Free or Reduced Lunches. Our transient population (23.4%) is predominately of low socioeconomic status. The school's count day enrollment for 2015-16 was 674 students with .0% American Indian/Alaskan Native, 7% Asian, 58% Hispanic, 9.33% Black/African American, 18.51% Caucasian, 0% Hawaiian/Pacific Islander, and 5.5% Multi-Racial. Additionally, 38% have Limited English Proficiency (LEP), and 15.16% have an Individualized Education Plan (IEP). In addition, we have a Parent Involvement Portable that provides workshops and trainings for our community and parents and also and adult ELL class at night to teach English to our second language parents.

Because of the high poverty level, the social worker will assist our counselor by providing classes in managing stress for our students whose families are receiving food backpacks for weekend food, and those students who are considered homeless because they are staying with other families or friends. The lack of a secure home environment causes these students to come to school tired and hungry. Because of the lack of income, we have additional students who are exposed to domestic violence in the home and bring those additional stresses and fears to the classroom. One of our parents who has been abused by her former husband is also in need of assistance in finding the appropriate resources for alternative housing so that she and her children feel safe from dad's beatings of mom in front of her children which he has done at least two times this fall.

We have about 15 families that are being raised by grandparents that are having difficulties dealing with their grandchildren and the social worker could also assist in presenting workshops for this segment of our population on dealing with and disciplining their grandchildren.

We have several students who do not come to school on a regular basis. As an example, we have one student who missed 65 days last year and has already missed 33 days this school year. He is a fifth grader and we are concerned that because the parents do not insist that he is in school, he is headed towards the path of a dropout. The social worker could assist with home visits to work with these families.

We have a diverse population, 37 different languages are spoken at our school. The social worker could assist with teaching conflict resolution and anger management and in helping our students to respect all the difference cultures at 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 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 for potential 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.

In addition to the services provided above, the social worker/mental health professional will work with the counselor to analyze data and information determining areas of need. This partnership would also include the dissemination of information to the stakeholders regarding mental health and human behavior, community resources and connections for our families and staff. He/she will also work with administration on compliance with Bullying Legislation and with establishing strategies for appropriate student citizenship and respect.