Theron L. Swainston MS

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
Office for a Safe and Respectful Learning Environment
Nevada Department of Education
700 E. Fifth St.
Carson City, NV 89701
(775) 687-9130
vblakeney@doe.nv.gov

Dr. Tammy Malich
Assistant Superintendent
Education Services Division

CCSD Contact:
Brian Adams, Coordinator
Office of Student Adjudication
Education Services Division
(702)799-0761

SECTION II
NARRATIVE

Theron L. Swainston Middle School

Our school population is unique due to having a large population of at risk youth whom are economically challenged. Our school is very diverse with regards to race, cultural, ethnicity and disabilities. Our special programs and students with disabilities include autism x2, SLD, SEC, MCS and Resource. High population of students on FRL (80% +)High percent of students have emotional needs to include suicidal protocol and services, social workers, foster care for guardians and group homes zoned within the school boundaries. High ELL population Students from single-parent families. Transient rate is high. High population of student's parents are who are not actively involved in the student's school. Student's parents never talked to them about school-related matters. Students whose parents held low expectations for their child's future educational attainment; Students who repeated an earlier grade, students who had histories of poor grades in mathematics and English, or students who did little homework; Students come to school unprepared for classwork.

Social Worker will re-engage students in education. The needs of the student and family will be addressed, offering support to the entire family. With advocacy and mentoring, the social worker will work to encourage the student back to school. The Social Worker will discuss grades, recommend credit retrieval, and connect the student to others who share similar interest or are struggling with similar issues. Assistance with family engagement, work alongside the special education facilitator and the school psychologist, assistance with the HGSI -Truancy Diversion Program, and Hope2 program. Provide additional support to students who are returning to school from hospitalization and require a Reentry Plan. Social Worker can serve the role of a liaison to contact/communicate with outside agencies, such as HELP of Southern Nevada. School Social Workers are part of the special education team. We facilitate meetings, participate in assessments, communicate with parents/guardians, and serve as a resource to students, families and other school staff.

The social worker will facilitate an on-going support group, providing students with an opportunity to discuss issues and concerns. An incentive-based point system will be developed to encourage students to accomplish goals. The school social worker will work with the students' teachers to develop a means for supporting the students' academic progress. The school social worker will provide credit retrieval guidance and will encourage participation in extracurricular activities at the school and in the community. Tutoring will be offered immediately after school for students who at risk of dropping out. For

students that are at-risk of dropping out of school while in middle school. This would include: Credit Retrieval students (social worker would track, mentor, monitor and implement an prevention or support program in collaboration with parents) HOPE2 type classroom- I would like to see a social worker either teach a class or classes of students that are at-risk of being sent to a behavior school or would work in collaboration with the teacher to provide lesson, skills, support on working on their behavior, social skills, etc. African-American students- This population or subgroup is the lowest scoring group of students according to our data and state proficiency or test. Additional assistance with parents and families on the importance of school, studying, homework and how the parent can provide such support at home can be provided by a social worker. A constant tracking of progress in collaboration with the parent/guardian between the social worker and the parent/guardian. Students who exhibit self-harmful behaviors . Providing support to families . Overall School Social Workers help parents, students, and school staff identify needs that interfere with learning and work with students to get the services they need. Social Workers work with general and special education students and their families to resolve social, emotional and behavioral problems. This will be done through assessment, consultation with school staff and community providers, through development and implementation of behavior management plans, and providing indirect and direct services. School Social Workers help to bridge school, home and community to help students be as successful as possible. School Social Workers work with individual students and families to support good attendance. Our goal is for every student to have 95%+ attendance for the school year. School Social Workers will meet one-on-one with individual students to work on any problems students may be having including peer relationships, behavior problems, problems in the community, at home or in school. Social Workers help students to develop social skills, coping strategies and to find positive solutions. School Social Workers are part of the special education team. We facilitate meetings, participate in assessments, communicate with parents/guardians, and serve as a resource to students, families and other school staff.