

KEITH W. RHEAULT  
Superintendent of Public Instruction

GLORIA P. DOPF  
Deputy Superintendent  
Instructional, Research and Evaluative  
Services

JAMES R. WELLS  
Deputy Superintendent  
Administrative and Fiscal Services

STATE OF NEVADA



DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  
700 E. Fifth Street  
Carson City, Nevada 89701-5096  
(775) 687-9200 • Fax: (775) 687-9101

SOUTHERN NEVADA OFFICE  
1820 E. Sahara, Suite 205  
Las Vegas, Nevada 89104-3746  
(702) 486-6455  
Fax: (702) 486-6450

MOODY STREET OFFICE  
1749 Moody Street, Suite 40  
Carson City, Nevada 89706-2543

June 3, 2008

Dr. Barbara McLaury, Senior Director, Title I  
Washoe County School District  
P.O. Box 30425  
Reno NV 89520

RE: Title I, Part D, Monitoring Report  
2007-2008 School Year

Dear Dr. McLaury:

Below you will find a summary of my review during the Title I, Part D monitoring visit made to Wittenberg Juvenile Services on April 30, 2008. I want to take the opportunity to thank you, and all of the individuals with whom we met, for the time and effort you were able to provide for this visit. In particular I would like to thank Kathleen Sandoval, Les Gruner, Juanita Jeanney, Michael Doering, Julie Rader, and Sarah Bennett, who demonstrate the kind of cross-agency collaboration that is needed to provide support for a vision like the Transitional Specialist Program (TSP).

Instructional Program: The educational program at Wittenberg covers the same standards and has the same instructional focus as all other Washoe County School District schools at the same level. Because the Wittenberg program is one of the Options programs available to students through Washoe High School (WHS), students remain enrolled within the school district, thus allowing for smoother communication and transfer of educational information between Wittenberg and a student's home school. Students who are enrolled in the TSP program complete Comprehensive Adult Student Assessment Systems (CASAS) testing in both reading and math; the results of this testing assist in diagnosing instructional needs. Results of any assessments become part of the student's educational records and can be utilized by a student's future educational placement as well. The TSP director oversees the transfer of educational records for students within the TSP program to ensure that barriers for a student to succeed are minimized.

Dr. McLaury

June 3, 2008

Page 2

Among the materials used in Wittenberg's educational program is Plato, instructional software that allows for differentiated instruction, as the teacher can modify assignments based on a student's academic needs. There is also access to Washoe Online Learning for the Future (WOLF) for those students who are functioning at a higher educational level. Every student in TSP completes a Vocational Assessment; this information in addition to transcript evaluation helps determine the optimal educational placement for each youth. Options for this placement include obtaining a GED, attending a Charter School, credit recovery, and/or the WOLF program mentioned above.

Professional Development: Because Wittenberg is part of WHS, instructional staff participates in monthly professional development conducted during the 3-hour delay for WHS instructional staff. In addition, TSP Case Managers have received training on the implementation of wrap around services and the utilization of the Nevada Career Information System (NCIS) Job Connect website to help youth complete resumes and find employment.

Parental Involvement: Parents are an integral part of the TSP and are involved in the planning of a student's educational program, including a review of transcripts and what options are available. Other family needs can also be identified through this process, and the family can receive referrals for a variety of needs identified. Once a student is to be released from detention, another meeting occurs between the parents, youth and the TSP case manager to review the educational plan and the goals of the family. The family receives case management services for at least 90 days and/or until the goals are met.

Budget and Partnerships: Federal funding has been received to increase the number of case managers within the TSP program and to provide clients with financial assistance for basic needs and educationally related expenses. Additional federal funding from the Department of Labor through Nevada Works provides assistance for a work experience program for TSP youth, and the excellent business partners secured by TSP through the Children's Cabinet have allowed for 100% placement for those in this program. There is also a close connection with the China Springs/Aurora Pines treatment facility in Douglas County that allows students who will be placed there to begin working on the Success Pod program while at Wittenberg and thus cut off up to 30 days of the time spent at that facility. Students who are placed at these facilities can also access counseling through Children's Cabinet while home for weekends.

Commendations and Recommendations: The Transitional Specialist Program embodies the intent of Title I, Part D legislation in that it provides vital support for the successful facilitation of youth from correctional programs into completing secondary education, finding gainful employment, and/or pursuing postsecondary education. Although the TSP is only beginning to see results, evidence so far is very promising in that only 4% of the students transitioning out of the program have been re-adjudicated.

Dr. McLaury  
June 3, 2008  
Page 3

Please contact me at [mcalloway@doe.nv.gov](mailto:mcalloway@doe.nv.gov) or at (775) 687-9161 if I can be of further assistance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Marcia Calloway". The script is cursive and fluid.

Marcia Calloway, Consultant  
Special Education, ESEA, and  
School Improvement Programs

MC/mc

c: Kathleen Sandoval, Family Youth Interventions Program Director, Children's Cabinet  
Les Gruner, Division Director, Detention, Wittenberg Juvenile Services  
Juanita Jeanney, Senior Director, Options, Washoe CSD  
Michael Doering, Principal, Washoe HS  
File