



PATHWAYS TO POSSIBILITIES AND STUDENT SUCCESS

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**Elementary Schools**

Donner Trail Elementary  
Glenshire Elementary  
Kings Beach Elementary  
Tahoe Lake Elementary  
Truckee Elementary

**Middle Schools**

Alder Creek Middle  
North Tahoe School 5-8

**High Schools**

Cold Stream Alternative  
North Tahoe High  
Sierra High  
Tahoe Truckee High

An Equal Opportunity  
Employer



Feb 17, 2022

Tahoe Truckee Excellence in Education Foundation  
Attn: Laura Brown, Executive Director  
Re: TTUSD Social Work Program

Dear Excellence in Education Board Review Committee,

Thank you for your ongoing support of TTUSD Social Emotional Programming over the years. It is hard to believe that it has been 10 years since we first launched the Wellness Centers. In that time, we have expanded our Wellness Programming to include: full-time Wellness Centers in the middle and high schools, Coordinated Care Teams with multi-tiered systems of support in most of our elementary and all of our middle school and high school sites, a robust K-12 Social Emotional Curriculum (Second Step, RULER, Link Crew, WEB, Breaking Down the Walls, Restorative Practices, Mindfulness), strong linkages to our Community Collaborative of Tahoe Truckee Partner mental health resources, school-based therapists in response to the pandemic, and most recently, School Social Workers in our middle and high schools.

This fall, TTUSD piloted a School Social Work Program to support the growing mental health needs of our middle school and high school students. We contracted with two part-time Social Workers at ACMS and THS, and one full-time Social Worker at North Tahoe Middle School and High School. Their role is to provide direct and indirect social work services to students experiencing social, emotional and/or behavioral problems that interfere with their performance in school.

Before 2020, 1 in 5 kids (3-17yrs) reported a mental, emotional or behavioral health disorder (CDC) and the pandemic has only exasperated this issue. A growing number of students are experiencing isolation, fear, anxiety, depression and suicidal ideation. This is often compounded by complex family issues. Since starting the School Social Work Program in October 2021, the School Social Workers have supported approximately 65 students by providing short-term counseling, conducting risk assessments, connecting students to an array of school and community mental health supports, and helping their families navigate critical county and community resources. Our lead LCSW Social Worker has also been able to supervise MSW interns which has allowed us to expand the number of mental health professionals who provide immediate support to students at school. In a short amount of time, the School Social Workers have become an integral link between the schools, home and community and have helped students access a holistic system of supports to improve their mental health and stay engaged in school.

In December 2021, the US Surgeon General issued an advisory on mental health among youth, calling it an “urgent public health crisis” that’ll require an all hands-on deck effort to address (12/14/21 HHS). Now is the time for TTUSD to deepen our collaborative partnerships to build a comprehensive system of mental health support for our students and their families.

**We are requesting \$50,000 from Excellence in Education to implement a sustainable Social Work Program in the TTUSD middle and high schools. TTUSD has committed to covering the remaining programmatic costs (\$120,000) and exploring long-term funding streams, such as Nevada/County MHSA and the California Student Behavioral Health Incentive Program. We appreciate any amount you are able to contribute. We believe that building a comprehensive School Social Work Program is a critical strategy in improving positive socio-emotional and academic outcomes for our students. We look forward to discussing this with your board in March.**

Thank you for your consideration of this request. Please let us know if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Jeff Santos, TTUSD Executive Director of Student Services  
Kim Bradley, TTUSD Wellness Manager