

Proposal for 1/2 Guidance Counselor at Simpson Elementary:

Our proposal is to employ a Guidance Counselor at Simpson Elementary for the 2019-2020 school year who will be responsible for providing counseling services to only Simpson Elementary rather than being an itinerant position between two schools. Currently, one full position provided by the district serves both Simpson and Franklin Elementary. If SES is able to keep half of this full position in their building all day every day for the entire school year, the person will become much more familiar with the staff and students. This will also be a much more efficient way to provide counseling services because we are eliminating the travel time and scheduling logistics of two separate schools. Another benefit of this approach of splitting the job between two different people assigned to each building will be that each principal will be able to select the best person for his or her school. Franklin Elementary and Simpson Elementary each have their own unique needs so the ability to ensure the right person is hired for their individual schools is a huge advantage.

The social and emotional well-being of all our students in Simpson County is a top priority. With the recent school shootings in today's society, we realize our children are dealing with a variety of psychological issues that require additional support. We are committed to providing our students with a safe learning environment where they know an adult cares for them personally as well as academically. In order to support these specific needs at each of our two elementary schools, FES and SES, we would like to request that the counseling services be provided by a certified member of their current staff at each of the schools. This service would allow us to help respond appropriately and provide emotional safety for students who have experienced traumatic events in their lives. The state requires us to provide suicide prevention programs, training, and curriculum for a proactive approach to dealing with mentally unstable children. We want to give these particular students a sense of belonging and stability as well as create opportunities for empowerment so that they can transition successfully throughout life.

The funding source for this position will remain the same and will not require additional money. The 15 extended days that accompanies this position would be divided 10 days for the Simpson Elementary guidance counselor with 3 grade levels and 5 days for the Franklin Elementary guidance counselor.