

OCCUPATIONAL THERAPIST

DEFINITION

Under the general direction of the Lead Special Services Agent, provides educationally related occupational therapy assessments and services to students in the special education population with various disabilities, according to the students' Individualized Education Program (IEP). The Occupational Therapist functions as part of a multidisciplinary team providing integrated services to students. The Occupational Therapist may provide direction and oversight of Certificated Occupational Therapy Assistants (COTA's) who are assigned to provide occupational therapy services.

ESSENTIAL DUTIES

The duties listed below are intended only as illustrations of the various types of work that may be performed. The omission of specific statements of duties does not exclude them from the position if the work is similar, related or a logical assignment to this class. There will typically be an assigned schedule for these duties:

- Evaluates student performance in a variety of areas including fine motor tasks, oral dysfunction, sensory impairments, perceptual motor skills, posture and movement
- Recommends methods and strategies to address student needs for therapy services
- Collaborates with medical personnel and multidisciplinary team members in interpreting and implementing therapy services
- Instructs teachers, educational staff, and families in positioning and handling techniques.
- Develops and reviews student goals and objectives in accordance with the Individualized Education Plan (IEP)
- Provide services in the least restrictive setting.
- Participate in Team Meeting, Student Support Team activities, and provide professional development to school-based staff as requested.
- Consult with other Related Services providers, teachers, and parents in order to provide effective services in a variety of settings.
- Develop, update, and adhere to both a daily and weekly schedule. Each school's principal should be provided with a copy of that schedule.
- Maintains records and documents
- Attends meetings and conferences
- Directs and provides oversight of occupational therapy services provided by other staff members
- Makes recommendations to the District for service delivery model
- Address the difference between medically necessary and educationally necessary services and makes referrals to California Children's Services (CCS) as appropriate
- Supervises staff
- Performs related work as required

QUALIFICATIONS

Knowledge of: Educational and developmental needs of children with specific disabilities. Applicable treatment modalities and theory for the pediatric populations. Assessment tools, treatment approaches and adaptive equipment for children with cerebral palsy, neuromuscular diseases, orthopedic conditions, genetic syndromes and other developmental disabilities.

Ability to: Establish and meet deadlines, exercise sound judgement, work accurately independently and confidentially, follow oral and written directions. Effectively communicate with occupational therapy treatment techniques and goals to teachers, parents and other program staff. Prepare and disseminate written reports, maintain effective working relationships, travel to various work locations. Effectively manage work flow of staff, and train and supervise staff.

PHYSICAL DEMANDS

The physical requirements indicated below are examples of the physical aspects that this position classification must perform in carrying out essential job functions.

- Will frequently exert 10 to 50 pounds of force to lift, carry, push, pull or otherwise move objects
- Will sit, but may run, walk or stand for periods of time; will be required to bend, stoop, crouch, kneel, reach above shoulder level and/or to ascend/descend a step stool or step ladder
- Must possess the ability to hear and perceive the nature of sound
- Must possess visual acuity and depth perception
- Must be capable of providing written and oral information, both in person and over the telephone
- Must possess the manual dexterity to operate business-related equipment and to handle and work with various objects and materials
- Must be able to drive to and work at multiple sites on a daily basis

Reasonable accommodation may be made to enable a person with a disability to perform the essential functions of the job.

EDUCATION AND EXPERIENCE

Experience: Experience providing occupational therapy services; Experience working in a California school district, SELPA office, or County Office of Education; Experience or certification in Sensory Integration methods; Experience supervising staff preferred.

Education: Verification of Bachelor's degree from an accredited university. A current registration with the American Occupational Therapy Association; or the National Board for Certification in Occupational Therapy.

Licenses: Possession of valid California driver's license. A valid CPR Certification from the American Red Cross or American Heart Association is required at the time of employment.

Condition of Employment: Insurability by the District's liability insurance carrier may be required.