

OCCUPATIONAL THERAPIST**DEFINITION**

Under general direction of the Assistant Superintendent of Special Education and/or Program Specialist, performs occupational therapy treatment on students with motor and sensory disabilities who are referred to the special education department; recommends treatment and goals, monitors student progress and reports student achievement according to student IEPs; performs other related tasks as assigned.

The typical duties and employment standards are representative of positions within this classification. Reasonable accommodations may be made to enable individuals with disabilities to perform the essential duties of the specific position.

TYPICAL DUTIES

Provides occupational therapy treatment to special education students. Assesses students' skills and abilities in oral motor, sensory integrations, motor planning, fine motor, developmental function, and activities of daily living, range of motion, and reflex integration and postural tone. Participates, as a member of a multi-disciplinary team, in individual education plans (IEPs) to develop and review students' annual goals and objectives. Monitors pupil progress and informs parents and teacher of student progress; acts as a liaison to district staff, physicians, parents, and other agencies in implementing student treatment. In accordance with student IEPs, writes reports on student assessments, progress, and objectives. Consults with family and staff on the appropriate implementation of educational programs as they relate to motor and sensory skill development. Designs and develops adaptive equipment for students and adjusts the equipment for proper fit. Provides in-service training for teachers, instructional assistants, and parents in the area of specialty. Provides guidance and/or training to Occupational Therapy Assistants. Performs other related duties as assigned.

DISTINGUISHING CHARACTERISTICS

An **Occupational Therapist** is a professional level classification requiring a State and/or Nationally recognized license to independently practice a variety of specialized therapeutic treatments on students with motor and sensory disabilities. An **Occupational Therapy Assistant** is a paraprofessional classification working under the direct supervision of a licensed occupational therapist to support him or her in applying occupational therapy techniques for students in the District.

EMPLOYMENT STANDARDS

Knowledge of: Child development, neuromuscular function/dysfunction, sensory motor integration, kinesiology, skeletal anatomy and basic pathology related to orthopedic disabilities; individual and group occupational therapy techniques commonly used for students with special needs; educational and medical application of adaptive equipment; generally accepted standards of health and sanitation; and record keeping practices and procedures.

Ability to: Develop, plan, and implement an occupational therapy program for students with various disabilities; assess individual student needs and develop an appropriate intervention that includes goals/objectives of an IEP team; explain and provide training on occupational therapy and rehabilitative procedures; consult to staff and family on the management of motor, sensory, perceptual, and self-care programs; establish and maintain effective working relationships with parent, students, staff, and community agencies; plan and organize work; write accurate and understandable reports; maintain accurate records and files; maintain confidentiality and discretion.

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Essential Physical Activities and Work Environment: Sufficient stamina to stand, walk, sit, kneel, stoop, reach, twist, crouch, and squat for extended periods while assisting students in therapy; strength to occasionally lift and/or carry with or without assistance up to 40 pounds (e.g., students and pieces of equipment); sufficient finger dexterity to grasp, push, and manipulate student limbs and occupational equipment. Sufficient visual acuity to identify safety hazards and monitor student activities.

Mental Functions: Must be able to understand and apply occupational therapy tools, concepts, and techniques; Sufficient ability to write accurate and clear reports and explain technical concepts to laypeople. Sufficient ability to read reports and/or guidelines and ability to operate a computer.

Typical Background: Graduation from an occupational therapy curriculum from an accredited university; Possession of a valid occupational therapy license as described below. Experience in a school district or working with children is highly desirable.

Licenses and/or Certificates: Possession of a valid license by the California Board of Occupational Therapy or by the National Board of Certification for Occupational Therapy is required. Possession of a First Aid/CPR certificate. Possession of a valid Class C California driver's license. Must meet District vehicle and liability insurance requirements, as appropriate. Must have a valid occupational therapy license at time of hire.

Qualifications: In order to be considered qualified for a vacancy in this classification, a candidate must possess the required background and successfully demonstrate such background, knowledge, skills and abilities through an examination process.