

**LOS ANGELES UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT**  
Human Resources Division

Class Description  
**SCHOOL PHYSICAL THERAPIST, SPECIAL EDUCATION**

**Job Purpose**

Deliver physical therapy services to students placed or referred for placement in special education programs.

**Responsible To**

Coordinator, Special Education Related Services or designee for administrative direction  
Senior School Therapist or Coordinating School Therapist for technical direction

**Subordinate**

School Physical Therapist Assistant

**Functions**

Essential Functions

1. Conducts assessments of students to determine eligibility for physical therapy.
2. Evaluates and provides physical therapy services to students with special education eligibilities.
3. Reviews reports from health care providers requesting physical therapy and coordinates physical therapy services with students' health care providers.
4. Collaborates with District medical personnel to coordinate medical care protocols and acts as a resource to school personnel in interpreting physical therapy services.
5. Works with staff at school sites and District offices in prevention and intervention strategies.
6. Confers with staff at school sites and District offices regarding student access and school site accessibility.
7. Develops and re-evaluates students' individual physical therapy plans on a regular basis.
8. Provides present level of performance for use in Individual Education Plan (IEP) committees, attends IEP meetings as necessary, and maintains progress notes on student records.
9. Collaborates with parents regarding plans for physical therapy services, including planning for therapy in the least restrictive environment.
10. Maintains a safe and orderly treatment area.
11. Evaluates the performance of subordinate personnel.

Other Functions

1. During periods of critical personnel shortage or other emergency situations, shall temporarily perform any duties, as directed, within the authorization of any credentials held by the incumbent that are registered with the Office of the Los Angeles County Superintendent of Schools and that are part of the class description requirements in effect at the time such duties are performed.
2. Performs other duties as assigned in accordance with the District-UTLA Agreement.

**Qualifications**

Knowledge, Skills, Abilities and Personal Characteristics

1. Ability to use a variety of modern methods, techniques, and practices in physical therapy.
2. Knowledge of the fundamental principles and accepted trends in the field of school physical therapy.
3. Ability to compose and comprehend written communication.
4. Ability to use scientifically based research and evidence in their decision-making process.
5. Ability to communicate effectively with students, parents, and District personnel, both individually and as a group.

6. Ability to properly use and to care for the materials, supplies, and equipment employed in performing services as a physical therapist.
7. Ability to bend at the waist safely; walking, sitting and standing for extended periods of time; dexterity of hands and fingers to operate specialized equipment and instructional equipment; lifting, carrying, pushing and pulling heavy objects up to 50 pounds. Transferring patients and pushing wheelchairs up to 500 feet.
8. Physical demands include lifting, bending, kneeling, and squatting to assist students with personal care and activities
9. Understanding of the physical, intellectual, social, and emotional growth patterns of students.
10. Ability to work effectively with all racial, ethnic, linguistic, disability, and socio-economic groups.
11. Ability to travel to other sites/locations throughout the District.
12. Ability to observe and evaluate subordinate's activities.
13. Knowledge of basic computer application software.

#### Experience

##### *Required*

No experience required.

##### *Desirable*

Successful experience in planning and providing physical therapy services, predominately to children and adolescents, in school settings, accredited medical centers, hospitals, clinics, and/or agencies.

#### Education

An earned bachelor's or master's degree in Physical Therapy from a college or university accredited by the Commission on Accreditation of Physical Therapy Education (CAPTE).

#### License

A current and valid license issued by the Physical Therapy Board of California to practice physical therapy.

#### Health

Physical and mental fitness to serve as a School Physical Therapist as certified by a licensed physician and surgeon or medical officer pursuant to Education Code Section 44839 and evidence of freedom from active tuberculosis pursuant to Education Code Section 49406.

*Note: This is a Special Services Salary (D) Table classification.*

This class description is not a complete statement of essential functions and responsibilities. The District retains the discretion to add or change typical duties of a position at any time.