

LOS ANGELES UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT
Human Resources Division

Class Description
SENIOR SCHOOL THERAPIST

Job Purpose

Assist the coordinator of the Occupational Therapy (OT) and Physical Therapy Program (PT), in the development and implementation of the OT & PT Programs. Coordinates and provides technical supervision to occupational therapists, physical therapists, and school occupational therapy assistants. Provides training to occupational therapists, physical therapists, and school occupational therapy assistants for the delivery of therapy services to students placed or referred for placement in special education programs.

Responsible to

Coordinator, Occupational Therapy and Physical Therapy Program

Technical Direction Provided to

School Occupational Therapists
School Physical Therapists
School Occupational Therapy Assistants

Functions

Essential Functions

1. Assists the coordinator with the formulation of practices and procedures regulating the occupational therapy and physical therapy
2. Provides leadership in the selection, development, utilization, and evaluation of occupational therapy and physical therapy treatment and assessment materials, equipment, and facilities for children with disabilities
3. Observes, monitors, and provides feedback on clinical practices and therapy services provided by therapists and/or therapy assistants; demonstrates effective therapeutic practices
4. Reviews and monitors service tracking, Individualized Education Programs (IEPs), and other data using the Welligent Management System
5. Provides clinical support to staff using data driven information and evidence-based practice
6. Coordinates and implements with program administrators ongoing professional development to staff
7. Coordinates the functions and services of the program in cooperation with other District offices, school site principals, and teachers including effective intervention practices
8. Confers with administrators on issues such as due process, compliance, and Medi-Cal Reimbursement billing
9. Assists in the development, management, maintenance, and safety of the therapy rooms and specialized equipment
10. Assists in the development and management of the innovative programs and practices within the Occupational Therapy and Physical Therapy Programs
11. Assists in the recruitment, clinical supervision, and selection of staff

Other Functions

1. During periods of critical personnel shortage or other emergency situation, shall temporarily perform any duties, as directed, within the authorization of any license, registration, or 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

Education

Required

An earned bachelor's degree or advanced degree of at least equivalent standard conferred by a regionally-accredited college or university in the field of occupational therapy or physical therapy

Desirable

Strong clinical knowledge in pediatric occupational therapy or physical therapy practices

Experience

At least five years of successful, full-time service as a school occupational therapist or a school physical therapist

NOTE: For definitions of years of service, refer to Policy Guide E23.

License/Registration

One of the following:

1. A current license issued by the State of California to practice occupational therapy and a current and valid certificate of registration in occupational therapy issued by the National Board for Certification in Occupational Therapy
2. A current license issued by the State of California to practice physical therapy

Knowledge, Skills, Abilities, and Personal Characteristics

1. Knowledge of the fundamental principles and accepted practices of school occupational therapy and school physical therapy including:
 - a. Skill in assessing students to determine educational need for occupational therapy or physical therapy;
 - b. Knowledge of uses and limitations of standardized individual and group tests and alternative assessment techniques; and
 - c. Specialized knowledge regarding growth and development, motivation, the learning process, and methods used to help alleviate physical and learning problems
2. Knowledge of federal, state, and local policies, rules, regulations, and District policies and procedures pertaining to occupational therapy and physical therapy
3. Knowledge of special education federal and state laws and regulations
4. Ability to integrate school occupational therapy and school physical therapy with the student's educational program
5. Ability to work effectively with all racial, ethnic, socioeconomic, linguistic, and disability groups
6. Knowledge of and skill in individual and group occupational and physical therapy techniques
7. Ability to plan, organize, prioritize, and manage time for self and others
8. Ability to work collaboratively with students, parents, community representatives, colleagues, and District personnel both individually and as a group
9. Ability to communicate with students, parents, community representatives, colleagues, and District personnel, both individually and as a group
10. Knowledge of community health and social services resources
11. Ability to compose and comprehend written communication utilizing various computer programs
12. Appropriate interpersonal style and methods to guide individuals and groups toward task accomplishment
13. Ability to observe, support, and guide program staff and their activities
14. Ability to respond to crisis situations
15. Mobility to access all areas of work sites
16. Ability to travel to other sites/locations

Health

Physical and mental fitness to engage in service as a senior school 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

Special Requirements

1. Annual Bloodborne Pathogen training (new employees must complete prior to employment)
2. A valid California driver license and the use of an automobile to travel to school sites throughout the District

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.

JRT