

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

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

**Job Purpose**

Delivers recreational therapy services through the Division of Special Education by assessing student needs and providing appropriate services and/or recommendations for therapeutic recreation, leisure education, and school and community based recreation opportunities.

**Responsible to**

Director, Special Education Related Services

**Subordinates**

None

**Functions**

Essential Functions

1. Conducts assessments of Special Education students to determine need for recreation services, including recreation therapy and leisure education; recommends goals and objectives for student's Individualized Education Plan (IEP).
2. Develops and/or implements strategies/therapeutic interventions to assist students in goal attainment.
3. Develops, implements, and re-evaluates instructional programs designed to assist students in developing physical, social, cognitive, and emotional skills necessary for independent recreation and leisure behavior.
4. Attends IEP and team meetings, maintains appropriate documentation on student assessments and progress, and provides reports for student's IEP.
5. Provides in-service opportunities for District personnel and other adult supports for leisure education and recreation services.
6. Serves as a resource for, and provides consultative assistance to general and special education school staffs to incorporate recreation services and leisure education concepts into ongoing curriculum.
7. Assists in the development of Individualized Transition Plans (ITP), and identifies needs and related activities for community living outcomes for recreation, leisure skills, interests, and abilities.
8. Communicates, collaborates and consults with District personnel, parents, and outside agencies regarding student recreational services, assessment results, and progress.
9. Assesses school based recreation opportunities and provides recommendations and strategies for inclusion of students with disabilities.
10. Serves as a liaison between school and community-based programs to ensure participation of students in the Least Restrictive Environment Program.

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 credentials held by the incumbent which are registered with the Office of the Los Angeles County Superintendent of Schools and which are a 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

An earned bachelor's degree in therapeutic recreation, or recreation with an emphasis in therapeutic recreation, from an accredited college or university.

### Experience

#### *Required*

At least 3 years of experience working with a variety of special populations.

#### *Desirable*

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

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

### Certification

A valid certificate as a:

- a. Certified Therapeutic Recreation Specialist (CTRS) issued by the National Council on Therapeutic Recreation Certification; OR
- b. Recreation Therapist Certified (RTC) issued by the California Board of Recreation and Park Certification.

### Knowledge, Skills, Abilities, and Personal Characteristics

1. Knowledge of the fundamental principles and accepted trends in the field of school recreational therapy.
2. Knowledge and understanding of the recreational, intellectual, social, and emotional growth patterns of students.
3. Knowledge and understanding of the Individuals with Disabilities in Education Act (IDEA), school system and Special Education programs.
4. Ability to use a variety of modern methods, techniques, and practices in recreational therapy.
5. Ability to compose and comprehend written communication and 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 recreational therapist.
7. Ability to work effectively with all racial, ethnic, linguistic, disability, and socio-economic groups.
8. Ability to conduct oneself in a professional manner that effectively represents LAUSD and the field of recreation therapy.
9. Ability to travel to other sites/locations throughout the District.

### Health

Physical and mental fitness to serve as a School Recreational 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 Physical Demands

1. Ability to safely lift, maneuver, and position students with or without aid.
2. Ability to properly use and manipulate equipment designed to support and/or transport a disabled or injured student.
3. Ability to appropriately and safely lift and/or transport, with or without aid, or otherwise support a disabled or injured student.
4. Mobility to traverse all areas of the work site.

Special Requirement

Annual Bloodborne Pathogen training (new employees must complete prior to employment).

*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.

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