

OCCUPATIONAL THERAPIST

GENERAL STATEMENT OF DUTIES: Provides occupational therapy services to develop and/or maintain adaptive skills to achieve maximal physical and mental functioning; does related work as required.

DISTINGUISHING FEATURES OF THE CLASS: Under the general supervision of a medical consultant or other certified personnel and the school principal, an incumbent in this class is responsible for providing occupational therapy in conjunction with a physician's diagnosis and prescription to facilitate rehabilitation of those students whose physical and/or motor disabilities interfere with their ability to experience maximum growth in an educational setting. Supervision may be exercised over an Occupational Therapy Assistant.

EXAMPLES OF WORK: (Illustrative Only)

Evaluates the level of function of the student and plans an appropriate occupational therapy program; Instructs Occupational Therapy Assistant in the care of students, where applicable;

Instructs in self-help activities such as basic skills of eating, dressing, personal grooming, toileting, mobility, object manipulation and communication;

Assists student in developing appropriate visual motor skills to enhance eye-hand coordination;

Plans program involving activities, such as practice in function, prevocational, vocational, and homemaking skills and activities of daily living for student to attain maximum independence within the educational setting;

Works with student to enhance level of functioning in the areas of visual, auditory, somatosensory perception to improve academic performance;

Uses activities to assist emotionally handicapped student to improve interpersonal relationships and encourage socially acceptable behavior;

Evaluates students' progress and maintains appropriate documentation;

Completes appropriate IEP documents on all students involved in therapy;

Participates in the educational planning and placement meetings for students being considered for occupational therapy services;

Serves as the liaison with referral sources (i.e.: medical clinics, community agencies);

Instructs student, faculty and family in the dynamics of the program, so all will understand the goal of the therapy;

REQUIRED KNOWLEDGE, SKILLS, ABILITIES AND ATTRIBUTES: Good knowledge of the theory and technique of occupational therapy; ability to comprehend, teach, and execute occupational therapy programs to students, family members and faculty; ability to work well with other team members; ability to write and speak effectively; ability to document findings and maintain accurate case records; good judgment; initiative; emotional maturity; resourcefulness; physical condition commensurate with the demands of the position.

MINIMUM ACCEPTABLE TRAINING AND EXPERIENCE: Possession of a license and current registration issued by the New York State Education Department, to practice as an Occupational Therapist.

SPECIAL REQUIREMENT FOR APPOINTMENT IN SCHOOL DISTRICTS:

In accordance with the Safe Schools Against Violence in Education (SAVE) legislation, Chapter 180 of the Laws of 2000, and by the Regulations of the Commissioner of Education, candidates for appointment in school districts must obtain clearance for employment from the State Education Department prior to employment based upon a fingerprint and criminal history background check.