

PHYSICAL THERAPIST

GENERAL STATEMENT OF DUTIES: Provides physical therapy and rehabilitation techniques as recommended by the American Physical Therapist Association; does related work as required.

DISTINGUISHING FEATURES OF THE CLASS: Under the general direction of a medical consultant or other certified personnel and the school principal, an incumbent in this class is responsible for providing physical therapy in conjunction with a physician's diagnosis and prescription for rehabilitation to those students whose physical and/or motor disabilities interfere with their ability to experience maximum growth in an educational environment.

EXAMPLES OF WORK: (Illustrative Only)

Evaluates students by performing a physical motor assessment on any individual who is considered a candidate for physical therapy services;

Instructs students in proper use of crutches, canes and walkers;

Carries out implementation of specific therapy and/or therapeutic recommendation for individual students;

Utilizes appropriate equipment for maximum function for the student;

Maintains proper therapy records and statistics;

Observes student's progress and reaction to the therapy program, and continually re-evaluates program when needed;

Instructs student, faculty and family in the dynamics of the program, so that all will comprehend the goals of therapy;

Provides consultation to parents regarding the specific physical therapy techniques employed in the educational setting, which should be reinforced at home in order to maximize the functional ability of the student;

Completes appropriate IEP documents on all students involved in therapy;

Fosters necessary and appropriate communication with the locality by functioning as a liaison with the medical follow-up facility (in conjunction with School Nurse and/or other school medical personnel);

EXAMPLES OF WORK: (Illustrative Only) (Continued)

Interprets and translates into functional terms, the therapy and/or medical reports received on students (in conjunction with the School Nurse).

Participates in curriculum development focusing on incorporating and maintaining the therapeutic perspectives necessary;

Conducts for all appropriate staff specific training sessions, which will enable them to broaden their basic knowledge of the physically disabled, and the environment around them.

REQUIRED KNOWLEDGE, SKILLS, ABILITIES AND ATTRIBUTES: Good knowledge of human anatomy, physiology, kinesiology, physics and psychology; ability to comprehend, teach, and execute physical therapy programs to students, family members and faculty; ability to prepare reports and maintain accurate case records; ability to work well with co-workers and students; good communication skills; physical condition commensurate with the duties 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 a Physical 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.