

WATCHUNG BOROUGH PUBLIC SCHOOLS

JOB DESCRIPTION

SPECIAL SERVICES

TITLE: SCHOOL PSYCHOLOGIST

REPORTS TO: Director of Special Services

QUALIFICATIONS: State Certification as a School Psychologist

JOB GOAL: The School Psychologist is a member of the Child Study Team, sharing with other members (Social Worker and Learning Consultant) the responsibility of evaluating and determining classification as necessary. The main focus is the application of psychological knowledge to the problems of the school, with special attention to the interactions of students identified as potentially handicapped with teachers and peers.

PERFORMANCE RESPONSIBILITIES:

1. Specifically, the School Psychologist evaluates the student to assess psychological strengths and needs, communicates with parent(s) and teachers, observes the student and prepares a comprehensive written report
2. Presents interpretation of findings to the Child Study Team members (at staffing). Participates in coordinating the findings of all three disciplines (plus speech therapist as appropriate) and stating recommendations for identification of the students as handicapped, classification, placement, and program (IEP). Provides input and make recommendations for ways to increase the mainstreaming of children with autism and related disorders.
3. Consults with outside therapists and psychologists/psychiatrists when needed
4. Performs the duties of a case manager for those cases assigned to the psychologist. Consults with teachers and staff regarding behavior and success in the classroom, potential data collection techniques, and ways of determining influences on difficulties in the classroom. This will also entail addressing programs used with students with autism or similar disorders (i.e., ABA, Discrete Trial, Verbal Behavior).
5. Coordinates all information to development of an IEP
6. Reviews psychological records of new students entering the system who have been previously classified to ascertain if an testing update is required, interview the student (at least one member of the CST to do), and meet with team members to determine placement with respect to records and prior program
7. Provides parents with information regarding psychological strengths and needs of their child. Explore means of which parents and the school can more effectively work together to assist the student
8. Expedites referrals to other specialists and agencies when appropriate
9. Works with teachers toward the solution of management problems of students whose learning or behavioral adjustment interferes with classroom activities. This will include conducting Functional Behavioral Analyses (FBA), as necessary including students with Autism and develop Behavior Intervention Plans (BIP) when indicated.
10. Keeps abreast of new developments in the field through professional journals and conferences
11. Serves as a consultant on mental health topics for professional staff members
12. Serves as a member of the Crisis Team
13. Expedites referrals to other specialists and agencies when appropriate and provide resources and information to parents with children with autism
14. Participates in I&RS meetings to develop appropriate interventions
15. Participates in Core Team meetings to help monitor school-wide student needs
16. Assists in planning for the transition of students to their next educational environment
17. If assigned to the secondary team, works closely with guidance counselors to develop an appropriate course schedule

TERMS OF EMPLOYMENT: Work year and salary to be determined by the Board.

EVALUATION: Performance of this job will be evaluated annually in accordance with state law and provisions of the Board's policy on evaluation of certified staff.

APPROVED: January 2, 2019