

Natomas Unified School District

Position Description

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| Position: Teacher/Vision Specialist | FLSA: Exempt |
| Department: Student Services and Support | Salary Grade:Certificated Salary Schedule |
| Reports to: Director or Designee | |

Job Descriptions are intended to present a descriptive list of the range of duties performed by employees in the class. Job Descriptions are not intended to reflect all duties performed within the job.

OVERALL OBJECTIVE AND SUMMARY

Provide a program for visually impaired students who have specific needs in academic areas such as reading, mathematics and language or who have other special needs in social or behavioral development. The teacher of the visually impaired will provide individualized instruction supplementing the regular classroom program. Under administrative supervision provides assessment and consultant services to classroom teachers as well as direct instruction to pupils with visual impairments as needs are identified.

ESSENTIAL DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

- Evaluate the individual needs of the student and create a specific program to meet these needs, which may be academic and/or social in nature
- Evaluate and make periodic reports on the academic achievement and personal adjustment of the visually impaired student in cooperation with the regular classroom teacher and principal
- Consult on a regular basis with classroom teachers in planning the instructional program for students with visual impairments
- Confer frequently with parents and school staff members on each student's progress
- Provide appropriate physical and psychological environments to establish and reinforce acceptable student behavior, attitudes, social skills and self-image
- Confer frequently with school nurse and parents to fully understand the visual problem and specific needs that it may create
- Assist the classroom teacher in understanding and working with the visually impaired student
- Conduct assessment and evaluation of students' vision needs; attend and serve as a member of the IEP team to determine eligibility of students for program; assist in the development of IEP instructional goals and objectives; assist in identifying other related services for the student; evaluate student progress and submit reports in a timely manner to coincide with IEP review meetings
- Establish a varied environment which accommodates the differing ways students learn
- Provide, secure, or develop special equipment and materials including tapes, books, software, digital and electronic materials, as available and needed for each student
- Teach special skills as needed which may include braille, typing, writing, daily living, prevocational skills, and community access
- Work directly with individual students with visual impairment and develop goals and objectives
- Coordinate with clearinghouse depository, library of congress and state textbook department for acquiring materials; orders, catalogs, distributes, and files materials
- Prepare reports required by state and/or county; obtain required reports and consult with students'

physician regarding students' physical condition

- Prepare student year-end progress reports
- Maintain collaborative and cooperative working relationships with parents, staff, school district personnel, and other community service agencies
- Maintain effective and timely written and oral communication with parents, staff, school personnel, and community agencies; attend various school related meetings
- Provide parent education related to students' needs
- Consult with teachers, vision educators, paraprofessionals, and other members of the educational team
- Provide in-service training and consultation to staff, school district personnel, volunteers, and agency personnel
- Work with regular education staff to foster integration of special education students
- Participate in professional development activities
- Perform other duties as assigned that support the overall objective of the position

QUALIFICATIONS

Knowledge of:

- Principles and techniques of individualized instruction and behavior management; assessment, subject area, and instructional methods, techniques and tools for students with visual impairment
- Practices used to develop skills related to self-help; equipment and devices used to teach students with visual impairment
- Current trends and innovations related to educating students with visual impairment
- Psychological, social and vocational impacts of visual impairment
- Post-high school vocational opportunities for students with visual impairment
- Community service agencies and resources for students with visual impairment
- Braille and the use of braille in a school setting
- Individual education plan requirements and implementation

Ability to:

- Coordinate and direct the work of instructional assistants, support personnel
- Teach children in grade levels and age ranges as assigned
- Administer, analyze, and interpret a variety of assessment measures to identify individual needs,
- Establish appropriate and measurable goals and objectives, and evaluate student progress
- Assess a students' vision needs and identify appropriate instructional techniques and visual aid devices
- Design and implement Individual Educational Plans
- Implement student transition and intervention plans
- Develop and provide instructional materials and strategies appropriate to student needs
- Establish and maintain a program of instruction and learning to enhance the development of students
- Learn about and implement the use of new devices and emerging technology related to visual impairment
- Work independently and function as a positive, contributing member of an educational team collaborating with parents, community, district staff and colleagues
- Communicate effectively both verbally and in writing to sufficiently express ideas, thoughts, lesson materials and instructions clearly to students, parents, community and staff
- Manage and prioritize multiple activities and responsibilities

- Analyze situations accurately and adopt an effective course of action
- Maintain accurate student records and submit reports in a timely manner
- Utilize strong behavior management and positive discipline skills
- Travel locally using own transportation (mileage reimbursed)

PHYSICAL ABILITIES:

This position requires:

- Mental acuity to collect and interpret data, evaluate, reason, define problems, establish facts, draw valid conclusions, make valid judgments and decisions
- Manual dexterity sufficient to write, use the telephone, computer, calculator and office machines at required speed and accuracy
- Ability to identify and interpret communications in handwritten and printed materials, and on the display screen of various office equipment and machines
- Ability to communicate effectively in order to perform assigned duties and to exchange information in person, in front of groups, and telephonically
- Ability to observe, monitor, and manage student activities and other assigned duties effectively.
- Physical agility to move self in various positions in order to execute duties effectively, which may include kneeling, walking, pushing/pulling, squatting, twisting, turning, bending, stooping and reaching overhead; physical stamina sufficient to sustain light physical labor and remain in stationary position for up to eight (8) hours
- Physical mobility sufficient to move about the work environment (office, District, school site to site) for sustained periods of time on hard flooring, climb slopes, stairs, ramps and to respond to emergency situations; physical strength sufficient to periodically lift and/or carry 20 pounds of materials or supplies; occasionally lift 40 or more pounds with or without assistance
- Occasionally push and/or pull a variety of tools, equipment, or objects weighing 80 or more pounds with or without assistance.

EDUCATION AND EXPERIENCE

- Bachelor’s Degree from an accredited college or university

LICENSE OR CERTIFICATE

- Valid California teaching credential authorizing specialized services for students with visual impairment required
- Certification authorizing Orientation and Mobility services preferred
- Valid California driver's license required