SPECIAL EDUCATION TEACHER-VISUALLY IMPAIRED

Definition:
Provides a program of specialized instruction and services for students who are visually impaired through instructional methodology based on functional skills theory.

Distinguishing Characteristics:

- Under the general direction of a special education principal, incumbent assists the site administrator and classroom teacher in designing and implementing an instructional program which allows each student to achieve his/her individual education program objectives;
- Makes environmental adjustments for visually impaired students at school;
- Shares responsibility with classroom teacher in the identification of instructional areas in which students require specialized assistance;
- Provides instruction specific to the visually impaired.

Supervision Exercised and Received:
General direction is provided by a principal and/or an assistant principal.

Examples of Duties and Responsibilities:
Duties and Responsibilities may include but are not limited to, the following:

- Share responsibility for initial and on-going assessments designed for visually impaired students
- Assist in screening and selecting students for enrollment in visually impaired programs according to the referral procedure
- Provide instruction to the visually impaired student in the development and maintenance of skills specified in the student's Individual Education Program (IEP)
- Provide instruction in career and vocational education skills in coordination with career and vocational education staff and rehabilitation counselors
- Provide assistance to the classroom teacher in academic subjects and activities of the classroom that, as a direct result of the visual impairment, require adaption
- Work as a member of a trans-disciplinary team for planning and implementing data based instructional programs
- Develop transition plans to move student to targeted integrated or community-based activities or transitions to adult lifestyles as related to visual impairment
- Establish and maintain effective and cooperative working relationships with students, teachers, staff, parents and other agencies
- Provide information and support to parents and families when appropriate
- Provide specialized physical healthcare services, under the training and supervision of a registered credentialed School Nurse
- Provide assistance with Activities of Daily Living
- Perform related duties as assigned

Employment Standards:

Knowledge of:

- Principles, theories, practices, methods and techniques applicable to visually impaired student curricula; the unique needs of the visually impaired
- Learning theory based upon the principles of behavior analysis and behavior modification, with an emphasis in positive reinforcement
- Braille and adapted materials necessary for the student who is visually impaired

Ability to:

- Apply the principals of behavior analysis and behavior modification with an emphasis on positive reinforcement to the delivery of instruction
- Provide instructional methodology which allows for student success and the achievement of IEP goals and objectives
- Express ideas and concepts clearly and concisely in both oral and written form
- Demonstrate, establish and maintain cooperative working relationships with students, teachers, staff and parents; work with acting-out and disturbed students
- Organize, prioritize and deliver a variety of instructional strategies

Education and Experience:

Any combination of education and experience that would likely provide the knowledge and abilities is qualifying. A typical way to obtain the knowledge and abilities would be:

Education:

- Bachelors Degree from an accredited college or university; Masters Degree with an emphasis in special education preferred.

Experience:

- Three (3) years successful teaching experience working with a wide range of age groups and handicapping conditions preferred.

Credentials:

- A valid California Education Specialist Instruction Credential authorizing Visual Impairment or a Specialist Credential in Special Education with the Visually Handicapped authorization or Standard, or Restricted Teaching Credential with the Visually Handicapped authorization and a valid California Clinical or Rehabilitative Services Credential authorized in Orientation and Mobility (is desired) with EL authorization are required or an intern who is eligible to apply for an Education Specialist Intern Credential.

Work Environment:

The following conditions may be present:

- Walking on uneven ground when outdoors;
- Exposure to student illness, injuries, infections and bodily fluids;
- May be exposed to chemicals contained in cleaning products;
- May be required to maneuver into awkward positions.

Other Requirements:

- Must be fingerprinted and a satisfactory Department of Justice and Federal Bureau of Investigation records checks must be received by the Sonoma County Office of Education, prior to employment.
- Proof of TB test will be required upon employment.
- Must pass a pre-employment physical (if applicable).
- May be required to obtain first aid and CPR certificates within the first 6-12 months of employment.
- May be required to drive with or without students; some positions may require a current California driver license, proof of insurance, and possible participation in the DMV Pull Notice Program once employed.
- Visual acuity sufficient to read manuals, video display screens, and other related material and work at a computer screen frequently and throughout the day.