MERCED CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

CLASS TITLE: Speech-Language Pathologist Assistant (SLPA)

BASIC FUNCTION:

Under the guidance of a Certificated Speech Pathologist, assists in providing speech therapy and educational services to students with speech and language disorders. Assists with language development, oral-motor control for speech production, and vocalization. May also monitor the use of communication devices and systems. Allows Speech-language pathologist to extend services, such as increase the frequency and intensity of services to students on caseload, increase client access to the program, and achieve more efficient/effective use of time and resources. The Speech-Language Pathologist Assistant is a part of the classified bargaining unit.

REPRESENTATIVE DUTIES:

Reports to assigned Speech and Language Therapists and Director of Special Education.

Provides speech and language therapy as supervised and determined by a Speech-Language Pathologist. Follows prescribed and documented treatment plans or protocols developed by the supervising SLP, without clinical interpretation.

Tutors or drills students, both individually or in groups, using established lesson plans and Individualized Education Plan (IEP) goals related to speech and language communication.

Assists students with the use of specialized equipment. Prepares, adapts, and/or modifies materials and/or equipment for use in the classroom and daily therapy activities.

Assists with data collection and the assessment of students' abilities in articulation, language, voice & fluency. Documents student progress toward their goals and objectives through the use of charts, records, graphs, or other documentation.

Document student, patient, and client performance (e.g., tallying data for the SLP to use; preparing charts, records, and graphs) and report this information to the supervising SLP.

Performs other duties as assigned that support the overall objective of the position.

Self-identify as a SLPA to families, students, patients, clients, staff, and others. This may be done verbally, in writing, and/or with titles on name badges.

Exhibit compliance with The Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) and Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) regulations, reimbursement requirements, and SLPAs' responsibilities.

Requires the ability to work independently with minimal instruction, and prioritize and organize related activities. Requires the ability to explain concepts and ideas to others and to accurately communicate both orally and in writing.

Requires the ability to work cooperatively and effectively with all levels of District staff and students.

Perform related duties as assigned.

The employee is to adhere to federal and state regulations, Board policies, and related administrative regulations which pertain to the particular assignment.

The Speech-Language Pathologist Assistant (SLPA) works under the direct supervision of the principal, directors and general supervision of the classroom teacher and Certificated Speech Pathologist. Exercises no supervision.

MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS:

KNOWLEDGE OF:

Principles, practices, procedures and techniques involved in providing speech and language therapy to individual students with various disabling conditions.
General remediation strategies involved in the enhancement of student speech, language and articulation skills.
Child guidance principles and practices related to children with special education needs.
Problems and concerns of students with special needs.
Basic instructional methods and techniques.
Classroom procedures and appropriate student conduct.
Operation of standard office and classroom equipment.
Oral and written communication skills.
Interpersonal skills using tact, patience and courtesy.
Proper English usage, grammar, spelling, punctuation and vocabulary.
Record-keeping techniques.

ABILITY TO:

Assist a speech and language pathologist in reinforcing instruction and therapy to individual students with various handicapping conditions.
Assist students with completing exercises, drills and assignments designed to enhance speech, language and articulation skills.
Assist with the implementation of effective remediation strategies.
Assist students with meeting educational goals and objectives.
Monitor, observe, and report student behavior and progress according to approved policies and procedures.
Demonstrate an understanding, patient and receptive attitude toward special education students.
Perform a variety of clerical duties including typing, filing and duplicating materials.
Establish and maintain cooperative and effective working relationships with others.
Communicate effectively both orally and in writing.
Communicate effectively with children, parents and adults.
Understand and follow oral and written instruction.

Understand and apply rules, regulations, policies and procedures.
Operate standard office and classroom equipment.
Observe health and safety regulations.
Maintain various records related to work performed.
EDUCATION AND EXPERIENCE:
Any combination equivalent to graduation from high school. AA in a Speech and Language Pathologist Assistant Program preferred. One year experience working with children.

LICENCE AND CERTIFICATES:
Possession of a valid California state license to serve as a Speech/Language Pathology Assistant by the Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology Board preferred.
Possession of a valid California driver's license.

WORKING CONDITIONS:

ENVIRONMENT:
Classroom environment; subject to constant interruptions from classroom activities. This is an itinerant position which may require the speech-language pathology assistant to provide service at more than one site during a school day and school year.

PHYSICAL ABILITIES:
Requires the ability to function effectively in classroom and office environments; engaged in work of a sedentary to moderately active nature. Requires ambulatory ability to move to various class and meeting room settings. Requires hand-eye-arm coordination and dexterity to use assistive devices and office equipment. Requires visual ability to recognize words, numbers, and non-verbal actions of people. Requires the auditory ability to project voice and carry out conversations with individuals and small groups in person and over the phone. Some assignments may require the lifting and positioning of students in wheelchairs or other equipment. Some assignments may require sitting or standing for long periods of time, walking, twisting, stooping, crouching, kneeling, bending over at the waist, grasping, reaching overhead, pushing, pulling, occasional lifting of light to middle weight objects (25 lbs.) independently or in excess of 25 pounds with assistance or with the use of lifting devices.

This position complies with the rules and regulations of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)

Legal Reference: California Education Code, Sections 45103, 45109

Policy Adopted: April 11, 2017