

CLASSIFICATION SPECIFICATION

Physical Therapist Assistant Range 50

GENERAL PURPOSE

Under the general direction of the Assistant Superintendent, SELPA, or designee, the School Physical Therapist Assistant works under the supervision of the school physical therapist as a member of the educational team to provide educationally related physical therapy services to identified special education students and reports on the student's progress in attaining goals and objectives as identified in the IEP. Employees in this classification receive limited supervision within a framework of standard policies and procedures. This job class requires that employees meet national and state practice codes and standards as well as professional training and certification standards.

ESSENTIAL JOB FUNCTIONS

1. Provide effective and appropriate physical therapy services to special needs students.
2. Assist the Physical Therapist in gathering, organizing and reporting assessment data and progress monitoring.
3. In support of students' Individualised Education Program (IEP) goals and objectives, implement and monitor intervention plans utilizing appropriate instructional settings, strategies and curricula.
4. Perform physical therapy treatments, including the use of modalities, manual techniques and common exercise techniques. Instruct and guide students through functional activities, such as transfers, gait and balance activities.
5. Work cooperatively with educational staff and/or agencies providing services to the student or family; act as a resource and provide training and in-service opportunities, as needed.
6. Assist Physical Therapist in the management and maintenance of Physical Therapy programs.
7. Observe and follow treatment precautions as identified by Physical Therapist.
8. Observe for changes in student responses and report changes to Physical Therapist.
9. Provide daily and timely student chart documentation of interventions and services provided.
10. Provide education and training to students and caregivers, while incorporating learning style preferences. Assess education and training responses.
11. Maintain a system of documentation that is professional, efficient and accountable, and that conforms to State/Federal Special Education and Physical Therapy Assistant laws, mandates and policies.
12. Perform other related duties, as assigned.

QUALIFICATIONS

Ability to:

1. Establish and maintain cooperative and effective working relationships with children and adults contacted in the course of work, with understanding of the unique differences and needs of students with disabilities and their families.

2. Work effectively with the multidisciplinary team, attend required meetings, provide training as appropriate.
3. Implement treatment plans, goals and objectives using current best practice clinical skills to provide appropriate physical therapy for children with specific disabilities.
4. Properly use and care for the materials and equipment utilized while performing services as a Physical Therapist Assistant.
5. Implement and document therapy programs and assist students with special equipment including positioning, exercise, developmental motor programs, ambulation and functional activities.
6. Understand, carry out, and clearly communicate oral and written directions.
7. Be flexible and receptive to change.
8. Attend in-service training, conferences and meetings, as assigned.

Knowledge of:

1. Modern and accepted theories of physical and mental rehabilitation underlying the practices of physical therapy.
2. Physical therapy techniques commonly used in treatment of students with specific disabilities.
3. Behavioral management systems and current trends in the educational methods for providing physical therapy services to students with disabilities.
4. Special Education law relative to physical therapy services.

EDUCATION

- High school education or GED or equivalent.

DESIRED EXPERIENCE

- Experience in a public-school setting or a pediatric clinical setting is preferred.

LICENSE REQUIREMENT

- Must possess or be eligible to obtain California State Licensure as a Physical Therapist Assistant.
- Possession of CPR certification.
- Possession of valid California driver's license and proof of automobile insurance.

WORK ENVIRONMENT

- Office environment
- School settings
- Home settings
- Driving a vehicle to conduct work

PHYSICAL AND MENTAL DEMANDS

The physical and mental demands described here are representative of those that must be met by an employee to successfully perform the essential functions of this class. Reasonable accommodations may be made to enable individuals with disabilities to perform these essential functions.

Physical Demands

- Hearing and speaking to exchange information and make presentations.
- Seeing to read a variety of materials.
- Dexterity of hands and fingers to operate a computer keyboard.
- Sitting for extended periods of time.
- Standing, walking, twisting, stooping, crouching, kneeling, bending over at the waist, grasping, reaching overhead, pushing, pulling and moving, lifting and/or carrying 0 to 50 pounds to waist height.

Mental Demands

- While performing the duties of this class, the employee is regularly required to use written and oral communication skills.
- Read and interpret complex data, information and documents.
- Analyze and solve problems.
- Observe and interpret people and situations; use math and mathematical reasoning.
- Learn and apply new information or skills.
- Perform highly detailed work on multiple, concurrent tasks with constant interruptions.
- Work under intensive deadlines and interact with administrators, faculty, parents, students, and representatives.

Board Approved: October 15, 2026