



PHYSICAL THERAPIST

Classification: Certificated

Location: Assigned School(s)

Reports to: Special Services Director

FLSA Status: Exempt

Bargaining Unit: EEA

This is a standard position description to be used for certificated teaching positions with similar duties, responsibilities, classification and compensation. Teachers assigned to the position description may or may not be assigned all of duties identified herein.

This job description does not constitute an employment agreement between the district and employee and is subject to change by the district as the needs of the district and requirements of the job change.

Part I: Position Summary

Supports education of students suspected of and/or diagnosed with disability in their least restrictive environment. Develops, implements, and coordinates physical therapy program within local educational agency; providing screening, evaluation and intervention services. Applies skilled physical therapy to support while preventing injury (acute or chronic) of students and educational staff.

Primary responsibility includes student safety and appropriate collaboration and attention to each student's readiness to learn including needed guidance, discipline, and welfare. Works in a variety of elementary and/or secondary educational, individual or team settings. May rotate among several schools.

Part II: Supervision and Controls over the Work

Works with high level of independence and professional discretion under general supervision of designated school administrator. Work is governed, controlled, and evaluated by acceptable professional practice, school and district policies and regulations, provisions of Washington Administrative Code and Revised Code of Washington, direction of supervisor, and performance standards and expectations as set forth in collective bargaining agreement.

Analyzes risk, problem solves effectively and demonstrates high level of professional judgment when recommending and providing services, making environmental modifications and training staff to manage physical needs at an appropriate level of supervision. Supervision may be exercised over support personnel, as appropriate according to the Washington Physical Therapy Practice Act.

Clinical reasoning and professional judgment are essential to ensuring safety of students and protecting liability of school system and therapist. Errors may result in serious harm to students. Appropriate supervision may be exercised over support personnel, such as physical therapist assistants and clerical staff, in accordance to the Washington Physical Therapy Practice Act.

Part III: Major Duties and Responsibilities**1. As a physical therapist:**

- Provides supervision of physical therapist assistants in accordance with Washington's Physical Therapy Practice Act (according to state laws).
 - Develops, implements and coordinates the physical therapy program within the Local Educational Agency, including philosophy, vision, departmental procedures and goals.
 - Evaluates students using appropriate tests, skilled professional observation and supplementary information from other agencies and records.
 - Interprets assessment findings and appropriately convey information to parents and school teams.
 - Participates with school team to develop Individualized Education Programs (IEP) and Section 504 plans.
 - Develops and implements intervention strategies.
 - Develops physical management plan for daily classroom routines and trains staff in its safe implementation.
 - Plans for transition from school to community, preparing student to function independent from therapy service when targeted outcomes are achieved.
 - Evaluates and reports on student progress.
 - Communicates and consults with school staff, parents, administrators, physicians, community and other professionals.
 - Serves as resource to parent, school team, staff and administration on disabling conditions and their effects on education.
 - Collaborates with community-based therapists and other healthcare providers for effective coordination of service.
 - Assesses needs and recommends assistive technology necessary for function at school.
 - Contributes to planning safe transportation of students with disability.
 - Provides consultation regarding emergency evacuation of students with disability.
 - Participates with improving school accessibility and planning environmental modification.
 - Maintains student service, administrative and other departmental records in accordance with the Washington Physical Therapy Practice Act as well as school district, state and federal policies.
 - Participates in budget planning and policy development.
 - Documents need and advocates for personnel and equipment.
 - Procures, maintains and inventories equipment, materials and supplies.
2. Works collaboratively in professional learning community with other teachers, support staff, and others as appropriate, in addressing needs of students, developing effective practices, and developing and implementing best practices.
3. Actively participates in faculty and grade level or department meetings, assists building efforts to plan, budget, implement, and evaluate the school's program and to do related work as required. Follows school policy and procedures, standard practices, and approved curriculum, and actively and positively supports the school vision.

4. Constantly observes needs and challenges of students and promptly engages administrator or appropriate educational staff associates when there is reason to suspect or reasonably believe a student is at risk or in danger due to such issues as bullying, sexual harassment/misconduct, depression or suicide ideation, or academic failure. Serves as positive role model for students and practices the behaviors that are expected of students.
5. Assists in supervision of students at school activities and events. Remains vigilant of students throughout the school day and school location, taking initiative to engage students when students are acting inappropriately or in inappropriate locations for time of day.

Performs other duties as assigned.

Part IV: Minimum Qualifications

1. Must have successful experience in working with culturally diverse families and communities, or have otherwise demonstrated a commitment to strengthening engagement of a diverse community and skill in communicating with a diverse population.
2. Valid Washington State license for Physical Therapist.
3. Valid Washington State Educational Staff Associate (ESA) School Physical Therapist certificate.
4. Bachelor's degree in physical therapy from an accredited college or university
5. Ability to understand procedures and function in a school system with regard to the special part health services play in the overall education of the student.
6. Knowledge and appreciation of the influence of disabilities, socio-cultural and socioeconomic factors on student's ability to participate in occupations.
7. Ability to work cooperatively with students and their parents, district staff, and community members who are culturally, racially, and linguistically diverse
8. Ability to effectively communicate with parents, students, and staff verbally and in writing.
9. Commitment to collaboration and teaming and effectiveness in working within a professional learning community.
10. Evidence of continuous professional learning and a commitment to participate in professional growth opportunities and self-reflection on professional practice. This includes adherence to continuing competency standards required to maintain licensure by Washington Physical Therapy Practice Act and requirements to maintain ESA certificate.



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Part V: Desired Qualifications

1. Initial specialist certification by American Board of Physical Therapy Specialties.
2. Experience working with, or knowledge, of limited English proficient students.
3. Bilingual skills.
4. Successful experience teaching in a diverse student environment.
5. Successful experience in a team teaching environment.

Part VI: Physical and Environmental Requirements of the Position

Physical demands and work environment described are representative of those that must be met by employee to successfully perform essential functions of job. Reasonable accommodations may be made to enable individuals with disabilities to perform essential functions.

Must lift and/or move 25 to 50 pounds, and may assist, move, or retrain students with greater weight when required to intervene in student safety issues. Frequently required to sit, talk, lift, carry, move about, hear and speak. May be required to perform extensive work at a computer display terminal.

Specific vision abilities required by include close vision, distance vision, color vision, peripheral vision, depth perception, and the ability to adjust focus. Noise level in work environment is usually moderate, or consistent with subject being taught, but can be abnormally loud on occasion.

May occasionally work in outside weather conditions and be exposed to wet and/or humid conditions, temperature fluctuations, fumes or airborne particles, toxic or caustic chemicals commonly used in instruction and/or cleaning. May be exposed to blood or other potentially infectious materials during course of duties. May be exposed to infectious disease as carried by students.

May be required to travel on school owned or leased vehicles while supervising and assisting students.