

SCHOOL DISTRICT OF ESCAMBIA COUNTY

JOB DESCRIPTION

PHYSICAL THERAPIST

QUALIFICATIONS:

- (1) Bachelor's Degree from an accredited educational institution with an accredited Physical Therapy curriculum.
- (2) Possess a Florida licensure to practice Physical Therapy.
- (3) Experience in pediatrics preferred.
- (4) Qualifications may vary from the above requirements to such a degree as the Superintendent and Board determine is necessary and appropriate to ensure properly qualified personnel in each specialized assignment.

KNOWLEDGE, SKILLS AND ABILITIES:

Professional knowledge of the theories, terminology, principles and techniques of physical therapy practices in pediatric, adolescent and young adult growth and development, neurological and orthopedic disabilities, behavioral management and psycho-social aspects of children with mental and physical disabilities. Ability to consult effectively with parents, students and teachers. Ability to organize and prioritize activities. Ability to communicate effectively, both orally and in writing.

REPORTS TO:

OT / PT Coordinator or Principal as assigned

JOB GOAL

To provide individualized educationally relevant therapy (consultative and/or direct) to facilitate a student's level of function and participation in his / her school environment to ensure a free and appropriate public education to those students who are eligible.

SUPERVISES:

Assigned Non-Instructional Personnel
Interns
Physical Therapy Assistants

PERFORMANCE RESPONSIBILITIES:

Planning / Preparation

- * (1) Develop an individual physical therapy program Plan of Care and provide it to physician for approval.
- * (2) Participate in developing Individual Education Plans (IEPs), goals and objectives for each student needs as applicable to the educational setting.
- * (3) Identify / select appropriate materials and equipment for therapy.
- * (4) Establish schedules for therapy sessions.

PHYSICAL THERAPIST (Continued)**Administrative / Management**

- * (5) Establish and maintain effective and efficient record keeping procedures.
- * (6) Maintain accurate daily records and data collection to document students' progress, including requirements for Medicaid.
- * (7) Manage time effectively.
- * (8) Manage materials and equipment effectively.
- * (9) Establish and maintain a positive, organized and safe environment for students.
- * (10) Use technology resources effectively.
- * (11) Assist in developing forms for documentation.

Assessment / Evaluation

- * (12) Evaluate students' physical needs relative to the educational setting.
- * (13) Present typed evaluations, interim progress reports and documentation of services each time a student is seen directly or consultatively.
- * (14) Re-evaluate short-term objectives and write new ones as needed.
- * (15) Use standardized tools and clinical observations to screen, evaluate and reassess students' needs.

Intervention / Direct Services

- * (16) Implement Plan of Care with specific instructions to students, teachers, other professionals, parents and other participants on an interdisciplinary team.
- * (17) Provide direct physical therapy, to include strengthening exercise, stretching, balance training, gait and mobility training.
- * (18) Prescribe and adjust adaptive equipment and instruct classroom staff in safe use.
- * (19) Attend medical clinics with or on behalf of students as necessary, or send progress reports to explain students' status within the school setting.
- * (20) Provide for student services as recommended in the IEP.
- * (21) Recognize overt indicators of student distress or abuse and take appropriate intervention, referral or reporting action.

Collaboration

- * (22) Communicate effectively, orally and in writing, with other professionals, students, parents and the community.
- * (23) Correspond with sponsoring physicians as appropriate.
- * (24) Attend IEP meetings and other student-related conferences as determined necessary.
- * (25) Provide families, employees and other professionals with consultation and instruction in therapy techniques to establish carry-over into daily activities, which ultimately would affect students' performance in the academic setting.
- * (26) Consult with teachers, parents and other IEP committee members to ensure that students' needs are being met.

Staff Development

- * (27) Participate in appropriate activities for the continuing improvement of professional knowledge and skills.
- * (28) Provide employee inservice training as deemed necessary by the Director I – Special Education.

Professional Responsibilities

- * (29) Model professional and ethical conduct at all times.
- * (30) Perform all professional responsibilities.
- * (31) Prepare required reports and maintain all appropriate records.
- * (32) Maintain confidentiality of student and other professional information.
- * (33) Comply with policies, procedures and programs.
- * (34) Support school and District goals and priorities.
- (35) Perform other incidental tasks consistent with the goals and objectives of this position.

PHYSICAL THERAPIST (Continued)

Student Growth and Achievement

- *(36) Ensure that student growth / achievement is continuous and appropriate for age groups and student program classification.
- *(37) Establish and maintain a positive collaborative relationships with students' families to increase student achievement.

PHYSICAL REQUIREMENTS:

Heavy Work: Exerting up to 100 pounds of force occasionally, and/or up to 50 pounds of force frequently and/or up to 20 pounds of force as needed to move objects.

TERMS OF EMPLOYMENT:

Salary and benefits shall be paid consistent with the District's approved compensation plan.
Length of the work year and hours of employment shall be those established by the District.

EVALUATION:

Performance of this job will be evaluated in accordance with provisions of the Board's policy on evaluation of personnel.

Job Description Supplement No. 06

*Essential Performance Responsibilities

PROFESSIONAL SALARY SCHEDULE – PAY GRADE 5

Date of Board Approval: August 21, 2001

Date of Revision: October 22, 2002