

EDUCATIONAL AUDIOLOGIST/ADMINISTRATIVE SPECIALIST

Definition:

The Educational Audiologist will work with the DHH staff in identifying, assessing and implementing hearing assistive technology for children from birth to 22 years of age throughout Sonoma County. The Educational Audiologist serves as the technical expert in confirming that a child is receiving appropriate auditory access to his/her curriculum and will recommend FM/DM and sound distribution systems as needed.

Distinguishing Characteristics:

- Under the general direction of a special education principal or administrator, incumbent assists site administrators, classroom teachers, families and DHH staff in the implementation and educational use of appropriate assistive listening devices to permit each student to access their curriculum and make progress on their IEP.
- The incumbent performs countywide audiology tasks necessary for the ordering, testing, fitting, tracking and maintenance of assistive listening devices for deaf and hard of hearing children.
- Incumbent demonstrates extensive knowledge and expertise in the field of pediatric and educational audiology.
- Personal qualities include leadership, integrity, fairness, optimism, self-confidence, persistence and vitality.

Supervision Exercised and Received

General direction is provided by a principal and/or assistant principal.

Examples of Duties and Responsibilities:

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

- Serve as a countywide auditory expert and resource to administrators, educational staff and families;
- Provide assessment and/or consultation for students with potential or identified hearing assistive technology needs ;
- Perform functional listening assessments to determine student's ability to access auditory information in the classroom when needed;
- Perform classroom observations and measurement of classroom acoustics to help guide educational accommodation recommendations and program planning when needed;
- Perform tympanometry screening, otoscopic evaluations, electroacoustic analysis and real ear measurements of amplification devices when needed.
- Assist and guide IEP teams on hearing assistance technology candidacy and serve as the lead expert on device selection, fitting, validation and management of appropriate hearing assistance technology options;
- Provide in-service/trainings/workshops to students and staff regarding hearing loss and educational implications along with the use of amplification equipment and assistive technology;
- Instruct and create a monitoring plan for the proper use and documentation of functionality of hearing aids, cochlear implants, bone anchored hearing aids (BAHA) and hearing assistance technology;
- Provide in classroom troubleshooting and repair of amplification and hearing assistance equipment when needed. Low incidence equipment that is not repairable in the field, will be sent back to the manufacturer for repair by the Audiologist and a loaner device will be given when possible;
- Management of a loaner hearing aid bank to be used when a student is in need of a back-up device;
- Create classroom instructional sheets on amplification devices and hearing assistance technology to assist teaching staff;
- Maintain up-to date computerized records in Excel and/or Filemaker pro, tracking equipment placements, orders, repairs, and maintenance throughout the county;
- Prepare monthly budget reports on county-wide needs for hearing assistance technology;
- Establish and maintain effective and cooperative working relationships with students, teachers, staff, parents and other support staff and agencies;
- Assist in identifying, developing and implementing appropriate use of resources for instructional application specifically for the DHH population.

Employment Standards:

Knowledge of:

- Diagnostic test techniques, equipment, methods and theories in assessing and identifying hearing impaired children from infancy through childhood;
- Hearing test procedures and interpretation of pure tones, bone conduction, speech audiometry, tympanometry, ABR, OAE, ASSR, Real Ear measurements, electroacoustic analysis of devices, and cochlear implant mapping;
- The function, use, fitting and troubleshooting of amplification equipment (hearing aids, cochlear implants, bone anchored hearing aids);
- The function, use, fitting and troubleshooting of hearing assistive devices (FM/DM systems, sound distribution systems);
- Auditory training and speech reading practices;
- Frequency mapping a school when multiple systems are in use to reduce the likelihood of interference;
- Laws, codes and regulations as they relate to special education and assistive technology;
- Providing support across educational environments and systems of service to DHH students;
- Interagency relationships and effective methods of program coordination.

Ability to:

- Organize, prioritize and multitask multiple needs throughout the county;
- Learn new technology and keep abreast of innovative technology that may meet the needs of hearing impaired children;
- Express ideas and concepts clearly and concisely in both oral and written form;
- Establish and maintain cooperative working relationships with students, teachers, staff and parents;
- Research, select and order assistive listening devices for low incidence eligible students;
- Work with children who have behavioral challenges;
- Be flexible and receptive to change.

Computer Skills:

- Intermediate word processing skills, such as working with toolbars, menus, rulers, inserting graphics etc.;
- Intermediate database management skills using excel spreadsheets such as the ability to create new spreadsheets, insert graphics, filter data, modify and use calculations features;
- Intermediate PowerPoint skills to be used for classroom in-services and presentations.

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:

- Master's Degree in Audiology or Audiology/Speech Pathology from an accredited college or university.

Experience:

- Three (3) or more years of successful educational audiology experience working with a wide range of age groups and handicapping conditions is preferred. Extensive experience in fitting personal FM/DM systems on children with various types of cochlear implants and hearing aids is desired.

Credentials:

- A valid license to practice Audiology in California issued by the Speech-Language Pathology, Audiology and Hearing Aid Dispensers Board.

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 records check must be received by SCOE, prior to employment.
- TB testing will be required upon employment.
- Must pass a pre-employment physical (if applicable).
- May be required to obtain first aid and CPR certifications the first 6-12 months of employment.
- May be required to drive with or without students; some positions may require a current California drivers license, proof of insurance, and possible participation in the DMV Pull Notice Program once employed.