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**SCHOOL PSYCHOLOGIST**

**Definition:**

To provide psychological services to the Sonoma County Office programs, including testing, counseling and consulting to assist in meeting the social, emotional and educational needs of students with disabilities and suspected disabilities.

**Distinguishing Characteristics:**

- Administers and interprets psychological assessments of students;
- Provides recommendations regarding the evaluation and placement of students;
- Consults with teachers, administrators, specialists, agencies and parents;
- Counsels students and coordinates behavior management programs;
- Provides training to other educational staff;
- Performs related duties as assigned.

**Supervision Exercised and Received:**

General direction is provided by the Director or Principal of the assigned program.

**Examples of Duties and Responsibilities:**

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

- Conducts psycho-educational assessments of students with disabilities and suspected disabilities; participates in resulting Individualized Educational Program (IEP) meetings; interprets psycho-educational assessment results; works as part of a team to determine special education eligibility and develop and Individual Education Program, as appropriate, makes placement and program recommendations.
- Facilitate IEP meetings as required.
- Writes coherent and comprehensive individual behavior plans as required.
- Provides written reports analyzing, interpreting and summarizing test results, observations and information from school personnel, students and parents.
- Acts as liaison between public and private agencies and county programs.
- Develops, coordinates, and provides in-service training to staff, parents and agency personnel.
- Maintains professional competencies in areas of responsibility, maintains contact with, and participates in professional job related organizations, and serve as a liaison to professional groups.
- Plans, organizes, and implements programs in cooperation with the county office, other agencies and consultants in surrounding regions.

**Employment Standards:**

***Knowledge of:***

- Federal and State laws, codes, regulations and requirements pertaining to areas of assigned responsibility for special education;
- Principles, practices, methods and strategies applicable to special education curriculum development and strategies for implementation;
- Psychological and educational techniques, tests, materials, methods, theories and trends in assessing and identifying student learning and behavior characteristics.

***Ability to:***

- Counsel students and parents in individual and group situations;
- Elect appropriate assessment instruments and methods of assessment;
- Write coherent and comprehensive psychological reports;
- Establish effective working relationships with staff, district personnel, other agencies and the public.
- Provide training to staff, parents, and other agency personnel.
- Work effectively with challenging student behavior.

**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:**

- Masters Degree from an accredited college or university with an emphasis in educational psychology or closely related field.
- Advanced training or specialization in at least one area of school psychology (i.e. bilingual, behavior modification or counseling).

**Experience:**

- At least one (1) year experience as an intern in a Special Education Program.
- Prefer one (1) year unsupervised work as a school psychologist with students with severe disabilities.
- Bilingual (Spanish) preferred, but not mandatory.

**Credentials:**

- A valid California Pupil Personnel Credential with School Psychology Authorization required.

**Work Environment:**

*The following conditions may be present:*

- Walking on uneven ground when outdoors;
- Exposure to student illnesses, 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 certificates within the first 6-12 months of employment.
- May be required to drive with or without students; some positions may require a current California driver license, proof of insurance, and possible participation in the DMV Pull Notice Program once employed.