SOCIAL-EMOTIONAL LEARNING SUPPORT TEACHING ASSISTANT – Itinerant Position

Definition:
To provide assistance to certificated staff in the instruction, supervision and training of individuals or groups of students (ages 3 to 22 years) with a variety of special education needs; support instructional and wellness services within a well-defined framework of policies and procedures; support the provision of a range of instructional training experiences in a variety of educational environments which may include specific classrooms, learning centers, vocational programs, the community and/or other instructional facilities and to perform related duties as assigned.

Distinguishing Characteristics:
Incumbent works closely with the teacher, counseling and behavior specialist staff and follows detailed instruction and/or established practices and procedures. Uses judgment and initiative in performing job duties and works with a variety of students with moderate or severe medical and physical disabilities or behavior disorders. Incumbent in this job class may be assigned to a specific classroom or multiple classrooms for short-term periods; may serve students with any, or combination of, the following conditions: limited- or non-English population, intellectual disability, autism, severe physical/medical involvement (i.e., cerebral palsy, seizure disorders), communication disorders (including non-verbal); hearing/vision impairment, learning disorders, emotional disturbances, behavior disorders.

Supervision Exercised and Received:
General direction is provided by the Special Education Principal or other administrator, classroom teacher, counseling and behavior specialist staff.

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

- Assists in direct instruction of students, including:
  - Social emotional regulation and communication skills.
  - Vocational skills, job- and work-related tasks.
  - Academics—reading, writing, math concepts.
  - Motor skills—physical education, body awareness.
  - Speech/language—communication skills.
  - Leisure/recreation skills.
  - Independent living and domestic skills.
  - Self-help—toileting, feeding, personal hygiene, dressing, etiquette and manners.
  - Other specialized health care—diapering, toilet training.
  - Community-based instruction.
  - Specialized subject areas, based on individual needs.
- Assigned to specific situations in a variety of locations on a temporary, as needed basis.
Maintains an effective learning environment through student supervision, class management and student discipline.
Provides specialized assistance to a specific student and/or classroom for students identified as having a social-emotional and/or behavioral issue.
Assists with implementation of classroom behavior strategies and interventions and/or individual student accommodations, modifications and/or behavior intervention plans as indicated in an Individual Education Plan (IEP), classroom plan and/or other guidelines.
Observes students’ mental and physical health; refer serious concerns or problems to credentialed staff.
Assists and monitors students with various physical and instructional-related equipment such as computers, tablets, ELMO software, playground equipment and physical therapy equipment.
Makes effective use of materials, media, audio-visual, equipment and supplies.
Accompanies students to general education classes as assigned and assists teachers and students as needed.
Prepares instructional materials to include worksheets and manipulatives.
Performs a variety of clerical tasks, including typing, making copies, collating, gathering resource information and materials, filing, food program record keeping, fundraising activities, answering phones, taking and relaying messages, word processing.
Participates in job-related meetings as requested; maintains confidentiality of individual students/families.
Contributes relevant feedback/information on student progress through observation, interaction and maintaining accurate records.
Maintains informational and operational records and files, including test/homework scores, student work, meal counts, incident reports and other records related to student instruction.
Monitors and assists students in using adaptive devices; i.e., electric wheelchairs, hearing aids, speech synthesizers, cassette players, VCRs and various recreational equipment.
Provides direction and support to peer tutors/student assistants including lifting of students, safe and healthful work habits.
Maintains cooperative relationships with all parents/care providers, staff and students.
Performs related duties as assigned.

Employment Standards:

Knowledge of:
- General classroom procedures and equipment.
- Pertinent academic areas and learning situations.
- Trauma-informed practices, positive behavior management strategies, wellness practices.
- Indoor/outdoor recreational activities suitable for handicapped students.
- Standard English usage, spelling, grammar and punctuation.
- Standard office machines, including computers.
- Safe work practices and proper lifting techniques.

Ability to:
- Respond promptly to request of internal and external clients; provide them needed information, assistance, training, materials and resources.
- Communicate effectively in both oral and written form, using standard English correctly.
• Maintain student and classroom records.
• Establish and maintain cooperative working relationships with those contacted during performance of job duties.
• Work independently with general guidance as needed.
• Develop rapport with all students, being fair, consistent and respectful; provide an inclusive and equitable environment that is sensitive to diverse individuals and situations.
• Plan, organize and prioritize own work to meet deadlines and accomplish assigned tasks within established deadlines.
• Perform competently and demonstrate skills and knowledge in the area of responsibility.
• Establish an instructional environment to meet individual student need.
• Learn child and/or adolescent development and/or psychology; receive training on trauma informed practices and supporting students who have experienced trauma.
• Learn assistant teaching strategies and positive behavior and crisis management techniques.
• Work effectively with students during activities which require twisting, pushing, pulling, bending, lifting, climbing, kneeling and other physical activities as needed.
• Take appropriate action in emergency situations; follow procedures in a calm, responsible manner.
• Facilitate age-appropriate interactions, activities and instruction to all students regardless of disability.
• Analyze situations including instruction, classroom and behavior management and implement an effective course of action.
• Recognize, stimulate and solicit student interest, input and participation to the fullest extent of each student's potential.
• Maintain and improve professional skills and knowledge.
• Be flexible and receptive to change; remain calm in times of stress.
• Administer basic first aid and CPR.

**Computer Skills:**

• Basic word processing skills, such as the ability to format, save files for cross-platform use and in different versions, work with toolbars, menus, and rulers, insert graphics, use borders and print labels and envelopes.
• Basic database skills, such as the ability to sort and retrieve records; create layouts, reports, create and print mailing labels; perform mail merge for form letters; add, edit, delete fields and records.
• Basic spreadsheet skills, including the ability to open, modify, save, and print a new or existing spreadsheet and enter text and numbers.
• Basic email skills, including the ability to send and open a file attachment.
• Basic Internet usage including the ability to use internet search engines to view web pages, bookmark a site, download a file; print out web pages, copy text, edit bookmarks, print web pages, create hyperlinks and observe copyright regulations.

**Desirable Qualifications:**

• Knowledge of general needs and behaviors of students with special needs.
• Knowledge of positive behavior and crisis management techniques.
Education and Experience:

Any combination of education and experience that would provide the knowledge and abilities is qualifying. A typical way to obtain the knowledge and abilities would be:

Education:
- California Ed Code requirements for paraprofessionals working in Title I programs.
- High school diploma or the equivalent, and
  - Two years of college (48 units), or
  - A. A. degree (or higher), or
  - Pass a local assessment of knowledge and skills in assisting in instruction.

Experience:
- Any paid or volunteer experience working in an instructional or therapeutic environment with youth, adolescents, or young adults.

Physical Abilities:
The physical abilities described here are representative of those that must be met by an employee to successfully perform the essential functions of this job; the frequencies noted below may vary depending on the assignment and the level of the students being served.

Note -Terms used in this section are defined as follows: Rarely: 1 to 10%; Occasionally: 11 to 33%; Frequently: 34 to 66%; and Continuously: 67 to 100% of the workday.

- Sitting: Occasionally
- Standing/Walking: Frequently
- Waist Bending: Occasionally to Frequently
- Neck Bending: Occasionally to Frequently
- Squatting: Frequently
- Climbing: Occasionally
- Kneeling: Frequently
- Crawling: Occasionally
- Neck Twisting: Occasionally to Frequently
- Waist Twisting: Occasionally
- Pushing/Pulling: Frequently to Continuously – up to 100 to 150 lbs. at a time (such as pushing wheelchairs)
- Running: Occasionally
- Reaching:
  - Above Shoulder: Occasionally
  - Below Shoulder: Frequently
- Lifting/Carrying:
  - 0-10 lbs: Frequently - weights carried 50 to 100 feet at a time
  - 11-25 lbs: Occasionally - weights carried up to 100 feet at a time
  - 26-50 lbs: Occasionally - weights carried 10 to 100 feet at a time
  - 51-75 lbs: Frequently – alone or with assistance - weights moved several feet at a time for toileting and transfers
  - 76-150 lbs: Occasionally - with assistance - weights moved several feet at a time for toileting and transfers
- Hand Activities:
o Repetitive Hand Use: Occasionally
o Simple Grasping: Frequently
o Power Grasping: Occasionally
o Fine Manipulation: Rarely
o Hand and Arm Twisting/Turning: Occasionally to Frequently
o Computer Operation/Writing: Rarely

For Preschool positions, this may include moving preschool equipment such as cots, tables, chairs; lifting infants and young children; perform twisting, bending, pushing, pulling, lifting, stooping, reaching motions during interaction with students and their children.

May be required to accompany students on field trips, which may require maneuvering into awkward positions or in narrow bus aisles.

Must be able to lift and physically restrain students at times; to take appropriate action in emergency situations; and follow procedures in a calm, responsible manner.

Must be able to communicate and exchange information, effectively, discreetly, and accurately in a high activity environment with staff, students, parents, and individuals who may have limited expressive and receptive conversational capacities.

Must be able to detect visual and non-visual warning signs of developing physical and emotional situations that may require attention from certificated staff.

Must be able to express oneself effectively, verbally and non-verbally in a classroom with staff, students and parents.

Must be able to discern visual and non-visual signs of physical and non-physical issues that may negatively affect the learning environment.

Must be able to monitor students and staff visually and non-visually to effectively assist in the management of an orderly and safe learning environment.

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 satisfactory Department of Justice and Federal Bureau of Investigation records checks must be received by Sonoma County Office of Education, prior to employment.
• TB testing will be required upon employment.
• Must pass a pre-employment physical (if applicable).
• Visual acuity sufficient to read manuals, video display screens and other related material and work at a computer screen frequently and throughout the day.
• Will be required to obtain first aid and CPR certificates within the first 6-12 months of employment.
• Must be able to convey oneself to more than one location in a safe and timely manner in a day and 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.
Other:

- Adopted: May 17, 2021
- FLSA Status: Non-Exempt
- Bargaining Unit: SEIU
- Approved by: Personnel Commission