

PHYSICAL THERAPIST ASSISTANT

QUALIFICATIONS:

1. Graduation from a physical therapist assistant associate degree program accredited by the American Physical Therapy Association
2. Current Department of Public Instruction certification for school physical therapist assistant (886)
3. Such alternatives to the above qualifications as the Board may find appropriate and acceptable

REPORTS TO:

1. Administrative Supervision: Director of Exceptional Education
2. Professional Supervision: Responsible to and under the direct supervision of the registered Physical Therapist employed by the School District

JOB GOAL:

Physical therapist assistants, under the supervision of a physical therapist, provide services to children with exceptional educational needs and educational staff when required for the child to benefit from special education. Utilizing a treatment plan developed by the physical therapist, the physical therapist assistant works to improve, develop, restore, and/or maintain a child's function to enhance the child's potential to attain benefit from special education. Consistent with state and federal law, school physical therapist assistants are related service personnel in exceptional education programs.

SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS:

1. The ability to work and communicate effectively with students having various cognitive and physical limitations;
2. Knowledge of health and safety and the ability to monitor and direct others in health and safety areas of concern;
3. Knowledge of methods of observation, recording, and data collection that apply to the monitoring of therapy objectives;
4. Knowledge of routine physical therapy practices;
5. Respect for confidentiality of information;
6. The ability to work with students in many nontraditional treatment settings;
7. The ability to assume and carry out responsibilities assigned by the supervising therapist.

PERFORMANCE RESPONSIBILITIES:

1. Provide direct therapy to children with exceptional educational needs;
2. Assist the physical therapist in the provision of physical therapy;
3. Provide information to other school personnel regarding physical therapy and the child;
4. Travel to and among schools to provide services to children;

5. Maintain records of services provided;
6. Lift and transfer children as necessary to provide physical therapy;
7. Assist the physical therapist with data collection;
8. Provide direct service following a written treatment plan developed by the physical therapist;
9. Assist the physical therapist in management and maintenance of the physical therapy program;
10. Recommend modification of treatment approaches to the physical therapist to reflect changing needs of the child;
11. Communicate and interact with other team members, school personnel, family, and other agencies in collaboration with the physical therapist;
12. Maintain treatment area, equipment, and supply inventory;
13. Maintain records in accordance with school, state and federal policy;
14. Participate in the development of policies and procedures in collaboration with the physical therapist;
15. Perform specified measurements such as goniometry and manual muscle testing;
16. Assist in monitoring work and school environments for accessibility;
17. Assist with instructing the educational staff concerning use of adaptive equipment, positioning programs and integration of therapy goals into classroom and academic activities to enhance function;
18. Performs other tasks and assumes other responsibilities within the overall scope of the position which the supervisor may assign.

EVALUATION:

Performance of this job will be evaluated in accordance with provisions of the Board Policy on Evaluation of Professional Personnel.