TEACHER – MODERATE TO SEVERE DISABILITIES

DEFINITION
Provides directed learning experiences and implements IEP for severely handicapped students aged 3 to 21 years, oversees support services to students, supervises para educators and related duties as required.

DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES (any one position may not include all of the listed duties nor do all of the listed examples include all tasks which may be found in positions within this classification.)

Assess individual needs and establish realistic and appropriate goals and objectives for each student. Design and implement a program for each student which meets the goals and objectives of the IEP and may include basic life skills such as personal hygiene, proper grooming habits, cleaning and cooking and related skills for successful performance in vocational areas such as communication and safety. Plan and conduct a system of continuous evaluation of each student’s progress. Maintain suitable classroom control and learning environment including appropriate planning and organization of the classroom. Direct and participate in evaluation of para educator(s). Prepare lesson plans and provide adequate information for para educator and substitute. Attend scheduled staff meetings and IEPs. May accompany students on field trips and community based or regular educational based integration. Supervise students in play or sports activities and during lunch time. Serve as a liaison to facilitate successful mainstreaming of student when appropriate. May provide parents with appropriate instructional strategies. Develop and implement approved strategies for behavior management and appropriate discipline. Provide assistance to students in the use of total communication which may include Braille, sign language or other non-verbal forms of communication. May be required to perform specialized health care procedures. May be required to drive a vehicle on field trips, community based instruction, etc. Other duties as assigned by the Superintendent or designee.

MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS

Education and Experience:
Possession of, or ability to obtain, an appropriate valid California teaching credential. Experience teaching in a severely handicapped classroom is desirable.

Knowledge of:
Modern teaching methods and techniques related to severely handicapped students. The ability to learn the general needs and behavior of handicapped children. Positive discipline and behavior management techniques. Interpersonal skills necessary to work successfully with student, parents and staff. Effective and efficient communication techniques. Safe practices in classroom and playground activities.
Ability to:
Manage and prioritize multiple activities. Communicate effectively in oral and written form sufficient to express ideas, thoughts, lesson plans and instruction clearly to students, staff and community. Collaborate effectively on inter-and intra-agency levels. Assess individual needs, establish realistic and appropriate goals and objectives and design and implement a program for each student. Plan and conduct a system of continuous evaluation of each student’s progress. Confer effectively with parents. Maintain suitable learning environment including appropriate planning and organization of classroom and provide appropriate materials. Direct and evaluate para educators and volunteers. Perform or be trained to perform specializes health care procedures. Establish and maintain cooperative relationships with students, parents and staff.

Physical Ability:
Ability to lift light objects (less than 20 lbs.) on an intermittent basis. May be required to lift heavy objects (up to 30 lbs.) on an intermittent basis. Occasionally, frequent lifting, carrying, pushing and pulling of equipment; frequent twisting and kneeling, squatting, reaching, stooping and bending; sitting on low chairs or on the floor; climbing stairs. Requires two or more persons to lift 50 pounds or more. Two person lifts recommended for students in wheelchairs.

Physical ability to position a student who may weigh 150 pounds or more and to manipulate wheelchairs and orthopedic devises. Physical agility to effectively restrain students in sometimes hostile situations. Mental acuity to perform required tasks, interpret and implement rules relating to the program and make sound decisions and judgments. Facility to sit at a desk, conference table or in meeting of various configurations for extended periods of time. Facilities to see, read and distinguish colors, a computer screen, educational materials, books and other printed matter with or without vision aids. Facility to hear and understand speech at a normal room level on the playground and on the telephone. Manual dexterity to dial a telephone, operate audio-visual and other classroom equipment and teaching aids. Facility to speak in audible tones so that others may understand clearly in normal classrooms, outdoors and on the telephone. Facility to walk and/or move quickly on uneven terrain, play yards and school grounds; may be required to push wheelchairs. Mental acuity to perform the essential functions of this position in an accurate, neat and timely fashion; to make good judgments and decisions; and to evaluate the results of decisions and judgments.

Reasonable accommodations may be made to enable a person with a disability to perform the essential functions of this position.

Licenses and Certificates
Valid California Driver’s License

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03/01/05