CLASS TITLE: DEAF and HARD OF HEARING (DHH) EDUCATION SPECIALIST

BASIC FUNCTION:
Under the direction of the SELPA/Special Education Administrator and an assigned supervisor, provide directed learning experiences in the cognitive, language communication development, self advocacy skills and affective domains in individual and group instruction for students who are deaf and/or hard of hearing.

REPRESENTATIVE DUTIES:

ESSENTIAL DUTIES:
• Conduct educational assessments related to student access to the academic core curriculum and progress towards meeting instructional academic goals, provide instruction and special education support to individuals with a primary and/or secondary disability which include deafness; hearing loss; deaf-blindness; and authorizes service to individuals ages birth through 22, as assigned.
• Complete initial evaluations, additional assessments and three year re-evaluations within county, state and federal guidelines and develop legally compliant assessment reports and Individual Educational Programs (IEP), and/or Individual Transition Plans (ITP), and/or Individual Family Service Plans (IFSP).
• Conduct periodic academic assessment and/or performance testing as required.
• Demonstrate working knowledge of lesson objectives and effective use of direct teacher instruction; provide appropriate creative learning experiences based on IEP/ITP/IFSP in the areas of self-help and health, language and communication, social behavior, academic skills, and career/vocational skills.
• Design educational program(s) and provide instruction to meet the individual learning needs of students, which have been identified in an IEP/ITP/IFSP, with consideration of the least restrictive environment including but not limited to self advocacy skills related to hearing loss.
• Emphasize, at the secondary school level, academic achievement, community access, career and vocational development, and preparation for adult life.
• Monitor student progress on a regular basis and participate in the review and revision of the IEP/ITP.
• Prepare, maintain and submit accurate records, reports, files and documentation as assigned on each student enrolled, including but not limited to, CASEMIS, Medi-Cal reports and billing, diagnostic information, student goals and objectives, conference information from parents and other professionals; complete and submit attendance records and all other reports; prepare county and/or state reports as assigned and/or required.
Utilize comprehensive assessment results in developing appropriate IEP/ITP/IFSP goals and objectives to accommodate the wide variety of individual needs of each student.

Work closely and cooperatively with general education classroom teachers, paraeducators, assigned supervisor, site administrator, designated instructional service (DIS) staff, nurse, psychologist, parents and community agencies to provide a complete program. Serve as a liaison to community agencies, parents, districts, contracted service providers, and caregivers.

Determine individual goals and objectives based on diagnostic information for each student to meet academic, communication and social needs.

Provide appropriate individual assessment of needed accommodations resulting from a hearing loss and recommendations for program placements and referrals for students with a hearing loss. Secure a current audiogram and other information as needed.

Provide information for and conduct conferences with parents, teachers, administrators and other professionals regarding scheduling, student needs, hearing loss and hearing aids, attendance, IEPs, services available from agencies and other concerns.

Work closely with the FCOE audiologist to meet student needs.

Confer and communicate with parents and/or caregivers and professional staff members regarding student progress.

Determine professional goals and objectives through the assessment and evaluation process.

Maintain data collection and anecdotal records to substantiate student progress toward annual goals.

Maintain professional standards and competence through participation in professional growth opportunities provided by the Fresno County Office of Education and in self-directed professional growth activities.

Prepare and maintain a current work schedule.

Provide appropriate and creative learning experiences that focus on integrating and connecting alternate standards aligned to the common core curriculum and the foundational skill areas.

Adhere to the schedules, policies and procedures as determined by the Fresno County Office of Education.

Attend and participate in a variety of assigned meetings, committees, conferences, in-services and/or special events.

Maintain a safe work environment.

Operate a variety of office equipment, including but not limited to a computer and assigned software applications.

Serve as a liaison between County Office and administrators, personnel, outside organizations or the public concerning assigned area.

Serve as a technical resource concerning assigned program, function or instructional area.

Work collaboratively with assigned supervisor and team members to assure the effective and efficient operation of the assigned program.

OTHER DUTIES:

Drive a vehicle to conduct work using own transportation.

Perform related duties as assigned.

KNOWLEDGE AND ABILITIES:

KNOWLEDGE OF:

American Sign Language preferred.
• Assessment tools, treatment approach and adaptive equipment for students with differing types of impairments.
• Emotional, intellectual, physical, sensory and social growth patterns of students with hearing loss.
• Experience and training with cochlear implants and auditory training preferred.
• Principles, practices, theories, methods, educational trends, techniques and strategies, pertaining to teaching students with hearing loss
• Behavior management strategies.
• Conflict resolution.
• Current techniques and procedures regarding curriculum and instructional design and delivery systems and program evaluation strategies as they relate to teaching students with exceptional needs.
• Current techniques to prevent or intervene appropriately in order to defuse escalating student behavior.
• Current techniques to maintain a safe environment and provide support for a physically aggressive student in a non-harmful manner.
• Impact of the disability on family interactions and development.
• Planning, organizing, coordination, and implementation of the operations and activities of the deaf and hard of hearing instructional program to enhance educational effectiveness and efficiency of the County Office.
• Principles, procedures and techniques in the development and implementation of staff training activities.
• Research methods, report writing and record keeping techniques.
• Applicable sections of the State Education Code, Local, State and Federal laws, codes, regulations and requirements as related to assigned activities and/or instructional area.
• Correct English usage, grammar, spelling, punctuation and vocabulary in all forms of communication.
• County Office organization, operations, policies and objectives.
• Interpersonal skills using tact, patience, flexibility, and courtesy.
• Operation of a variety of office equipment, including but not limited to a computer and assigned software applications.
• Theoretical and technical aspects of field of specialty.

ABILITY TO:
• Communicate using American Sign Language preferred.
• Support students with hearing technology including, but not limited to cochlear implants, FM systems, and hearing aids.
• Analyze and evaluate situations accurately and adopt an effective course of action.
• Coordinate communications, information, personnel, and resources to assure smooth and efficient activities in job assignment and/or assigned program.
• Maintain a safe environment and provide support for a physically aggressive student in a non-harmful manner.
• Maintain a variety of reports and files related to job assignment and/or assigned program.
• Maintain systems, policies, standards and procedures in compliance with a variety of federal, state, and local laws, rules and regulations as they relate to job assignment and/or assigned program.
• Monitor and assess operations and activities of assigned program, function or instructional area for educational effectiveness and operational efficiency.
• Plan, organize, coordinate, and implement curriculum and activities for students who are deaf and/or hard of hearing, to enhance educational effectiveness and efficiency of the County Office.
• Prevent or intervene appropriately in order to defuse an escalating student.
• Provide appropriate, effective and motivating learning experiences for students from a wide range of socio-economic levels and cultural backgrounds.
• Communicate effectively both orally and in writing.
• Develop and implement modifications and intervention strategies to match specific student needs.
• Drive a vehicle to conduct work.
• Interpret, apply, and explain rules, regulations, policies and procedures.
• Maintain consistent, punctual and regular attendance.
• Operate a variety of office equipment, including but not limited to a computer and assigned software applications.
• Perform non-instructional duties and responsibilities in an efficient and effective manner.
• Serve as a liaison between County Office administrator and personnel, outside organizations or the public concerning assigned program.
• Use professionally appropriate interpersonal skills including but not limited to tact, patience, flexibility and courtesy.
• Work confidentially and with discretion.
• Work independently with little direction.

EDUCATION:
• Bachelor’s Degree.
• Master’s Degree in Special Education preferred.

EXPERIENCE:
• Two years serving students with Low Incidence disabilities preferred.
• Special training and/or experience working with students who are deaf and/or hard of hearing preferred.

LICENSES AND OTHER REQUIREMENTS:
• Valid California Education Specialist Instruction Credential - Deaf and Hard of Hearing or
• Holders of the listed credentials authorized to teach children with disabilities in which the primary disability is ‘deafness’ or ‘hearing impairment.’
• Valid California driver’s license, incumbent must be insurable at the “standard rate” by the employer’s insurance carrier at all times while employed by the Fresno County Office of Education.
• This position requires the incumbent to enroll in the Department of Motor Vehicles Government Employer Pull Notice Program at time of hire.
• This position requires a pre-placement medical assessment (paid for by FCOE) at a clinic selected by the county office. Any offer of employment is contingent upon successful certification by designated physician that applicant is able to perform essential functions of the job, with or without reasonable accommodation.
• Valid Defensive Driving Certificate issued by an authorized agency within one year of date of hire.
• Valid First Aid and CPR Certificate issued by an authorized agency within one year of date of hire.
• Valid Non-Violent Crisis Intervention Certificate issued by an authorized agency within one year of date of hire may be required.

WORKING CONDITIONS:
ENVIRONMENT:
- Drive a vehicle to conduct work, using own transportation.
- Family or caregiver home environments, childcare, and community settings.
- Office and/or school facility environment; school playground or campus and community based instructional environments, emphasizing age-appropriate student instruction and training.
- Regular interruptions.
- Small and large group meetings.

PHYSICAL DEMANDS:
- Bending at the waist, sitting on the floor, kneeling or crouching; climb or balance.
- Eyesight corrected or uncorrected sufficient to read a variety of materials including but not limited to fine print.
- Hearing with or without use of hearing aid(s) sufficient to hear any conversation with others. Understandable voice and speech patterns.
- Manual dexterity and coordination sufficient to operate office and/or classroom equipment.
- Sitting, standing and/or walking for extended periods of time.
- Use hands to handle and/or feel; reach with hands and arms.
- Must frequently lift, push, pull or carry up to ten (10) pounds and occasionally lift and/or move at least fifty (50) pounds.

The physical demands and working conditions described here are representative of those that must be met by an employee to successfully perform the essential functions of this position, subject to reasonable accommodation.

HAZARDS:
- Abusive and potentially harmful outbursts from students which may pose a threat to staff and/or students.
- Possible contact with blood and/or other body fluids.

*This position description may not be an exhaustive list of all duties, knowledge, or abilities associated with this classification, however it is intended to accurately reflect the principal job elements. Related duties, knowledge, or abilities to those expressly stated may also be required for successful performance of the position.*