

SCHOOL PSYCHOLOGIST

JOB GOAL

Provide a variety of mental health, consulting, educational, and diagnostic services to assigned schools and programs throughout the district to facilitate learning and to promote the cognitive, social, and personal development of all students.

DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Services to Students:

- Performs psycho-educational assessments using techniques and resources utilized in assessing, evaluating, and diagnosing, identify special needs students and recommend supportive services.
- Complete written psycho-educational reports analyzing, interpreting, and summarizing test results, using observations, review of school records and consultation with parents, student, and school personnel.
- Assess, diagnose, and make recommendations for remediation of learning deficiencies, social adaptation, academics, psychomotor skills, health, self-help, and vocational skills.
- Provide recommendations for placement in the least restrictive environment.
- Perform behavior intervention case management duties, such as, conducting functional behavioral analysis, functional analysis assessments and preparing behavior intervention plans.
- Provide individual or group counseling to students on educational and personal adjustment issues.
- Assists in planning development, and evaluation of programs to meet the needs of students with identified needs.
- Respond to crisis situations (i.e. Student tantrums and emotional labile students) and assist with the assessment of students expressing suicidal ideations.

Work with School Personnel

- Consults with staff and administration regarding psychological, social, behavioral, and cognitive needs of all students.
- Participates in developing and implementing prevention programs related to social, emotional, and educational concerns.
- Provide assistance and consultation to support teams writing or revising student Individual Education Programs.
- Conduct in-service education to staff and parents regarding children with special needs.
- Provide consultation and assistance to teachers regarding attainment of Individual Education Program objectives and goals for children with special needs.
- Actively participate in Student Study Teams (SST), Individual Education Plan (IEP) Teams and 504 Teams.
- Offer support for the creation of an effective environment for students to learn.
- Consult with teachers, classified and certificated support staff, administrators, other Psychologists, Psychiatrists, and Physicians.
- Collaborate with other educational professionals and community agencies to develop social and teaching strategies for school programs.

Work with Parents

- Provide parent education related to student's needs.
- Serve as a resource to help families and schools deal with crises, such as separation and loss.
- Refer students and their families to appropriate community agencies for medical, vocational, or social services.

Competency in Methods and Practice

- Maintains confidential records of supportive data regarding psychological counseling activities including individual/group sessions, IEP goal/objective performance, behavioral data, and progress/evaluation of student/parent conference participation.
- Prepares timely written psychological re-evaluations, including child interviews, observations, intelligence and achievement materials.
- Initiate and direct efforts to foster tolerance, understanding, and appreciation of diversity in school communities.
- Promote an understanding of child development and its relationship to learning and behavior.
- Attend workshops, seminars, and/or professional meetings to remain informed of new developments in school psychology.
- Ensure confidentiality and professional integrity are upheld at all times.
- Perform other related duties as assigned.

KNOWLEDGE AND ABILITIES:

Knowledge of:

- Psychological and social aspects and characteristics of children with social/emotional disturbances to include students with a dual diagnosis of Autism/ED, TBI/ED, Substance Addition/ED, etc.
- Best practices related to meeting the mental health needs of students to include residential treatment protocols and level of care assessment
- Human behavior and development of students with special needs
- Federal and State Special Education Pertinent laws and regulations regarding
- Normal growth and development of children and educational and developmental needs of children with specific disabilities
- Applicable treatment methodologies and theory, to include training in *Cognitive Behavior Therapy* (CBT)
- Social-Emotional and mental health assessment methodologies related to student impact on educational success.
- Knowledge of *Applied Behavior Analysis* (ABA) and working with behavior aides/instructional assistants
- Community resources (public and private) available to students and families with social emotional/mental health needs
- Best practices, to include behavior planning/levels systems for programs for students with emotional disturbance (ED)
- Cultural competence and behaviors consistent with the core values, visions, and mission of SBCSELPA and SMJUHS
- Best practices in the field of school-based mental health including continuous inquiry, professional development practices, application and sharing of research-based practices
- Counseling techniques and strategies as well as parenting skills.
- Evaluation and interview instruments in the areas of cognitive, behavioral, social-emotional, sensory-motor, adaptive behavior, academic and vocational abilities.
- IEP Team process.
- Observational techniques.
- Resources and agencies providing services to students with exceptional needs.

ABILITY TO:

- Perform Crisis Intervention and/or assessment
- Conduct Parent Training (parenting classes)
- Take direction from others
- Demonstrate positive working relationship with students, IEP teams/staff, parents, supervisor, and other professionals
- Work with diverse groups of students in varied socioeconomic and multicultural areas
- Promote student adjustment to schools and utilization of district and community services
- Establish workload priorities and meet timelines
- Communicate effectively orally and in writing
- Operate standard office equipment including computers and related software applications such as Microsoft Office, Excel, and Power Point.
- Plan and organize work effectively and efficiently; ability to multi-task
- Provide training in mental health best practices such as CBT
- Maintain records and prepare thorough, detailed psychological reports
- Analyze crisis situations accurately and adopt an effective course of action (crisis action plan)
- Work independently with little direction.

DESIGNATED AUTHORITY

Director of Special Education

EDUCATION

Bachelor's degree from an accredited college/university is required and two (2) years of post-baccalaureate degree preparation from an accredited college/university specializing in school psychology, including a practicum. Master's degree desirable.

EXPERIENCE

A minimum of three (3) years of recent responsible psychologist experience with school-age children is required, and experience with mentally, emotionally, and physically handicapped students is highly desirable.

REQUIRED QUALIFICATIONS

Valid School Psychology Services credential.

Knowledge of and experience in assessing and developing individual educational plans for students with exceptional needs.

DESIRED QUALIFICATIONS

Valid California teaching or Pupil Personnel Services credential.
Secondary teaching in regular or Special Education classroom.
Bilingual: English/Spanish.

WORKING CONDITIONS:

Environment:

Indoor classroom or office environment; travel in the form of driving to consult with families and/or students in their homes.

Physical Requirements:

Hearing and speaking to exchange information in person and on the telephone; seeing to perform assigned duties; sitting or standing for extended periods of time; dexterity of hands and fingers to operate a computer keyboard and other office equipment; kneeling, bending at the waist, and reaching overhead, above the shoulders and horizontally, to retrieve and store files and supplies; lifting light objects.

SMJUHSD
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