

TEACHER, ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY, SELPA

Definition:

The Assistive Technology Teacher assists regional, County Office and district staff, and parents; assesses, plans, identifies and implements assistive technology for technology dependent individuals; recommends appropriate technology based upon a broad knowledge of commercially available hardware, software and devices; provides assistive technology consultation, instruction and support to staff, parents and users in order to facilitate full access for the user to educational, recreational, domestic and vocational programs.

Distinguishing Characteristics:

- Under the direction of a department or program administrator, the Assistive Technology Teacher conducts activities associated with assistive technology for individuals with physical, cognitive or social/emotional disabilities.
- Contact with others include peers, district and other agency staff, the public, as well as routine contact with administrators, teachers, families, consumers and their representatives at meetings, workshops, trainings, presentations and conferences.

Supervision Exercised and Received:

General direction is provided by the SELPA director.

Examples of Duties and Responsibilities:

Duties and responsibilities may include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Participate as part of a collaborative team with may include parents, care providers, Speech and Language Therapists, Hard of Hearing Teachers, Visually Impaired Teachers, Occupational and Physical Therapists, instructional and agency staff, provides assessment, consultation and support services for students with assistive technology needs;
- Train staff in the use of high and low technology such as communication devices, computer hardware/software and peripheral equipment, environmental controls, mounting systems, switches and switch accessible devices;
- Assist and guide families, teachers and professional staff in observing, describing and referring students with potential or identified assistive technology needs;
- Assist in the referral of students to agencies and specialists in the community as appropriate;
- Provide training, inservice and staff development activities to parents, teachers, administrators and agency personnel;
- Maintain effective and cooperative working relationships with students, teachers, staff, parents and other agencies;
- Travel reimbursed throughout California for purposes of assessment, consultation, training and continuing education per assistive technology program assignment;
- Demonstrate and understanding of equipment modifications and coordinate modifications as required to meet the access needs of the user;
- Coordinate or participate in a variety of educational meetings related to student needs;
- Maintain accurate, required reports, records and legal documents of referred, screened and eligible students;
- Follow established procedures to obtain needed materials, equipment and facilities;
- Work the same number of contracted days and hours as other certificated staff but follow a calendar determined by the needs of districts and agencies served;
- Insure a safe and healthful environment for all students, adhering to all applicable laws, codes and County Office policy;
- Perform other duties as assigned.

Employment Standards:

Knowledge of:

- Learning theory based upon the principles of behavior analysis and behavior modification, with an emphasis on positive reinforcement;
- Principles, practices, methods and strategies applicable to individuals with assistive technology needs;
- Laws, codes and regulations as they relate to assistive technology.
- Interagency relationships and effective methods of program coordination.
- Current developments in computer and rehabilitation technology hardware and software.

Ability to:

- Apply the principles of behavior analysis and behavior modification, with an emphasis on positive reinforcement to the delivery of instruction;
- Write performance objectives which are measurable, observable and verifiable;
- Work cooperatively with teachers, administrators and transdisciplinary teams;
- Communicate ideas and concepts clearly and concisely in both oral and written form;
- Maintain and improve professional skills and knowledge;
- Be flexible and receptive to change.

Education and Experience:

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

Education:

- Bachelor's Degree from an accredited college or university in one or more of the following subject areas: assistive technology; speech and language pathology; occupational therapy; physical therapy; special education; school psychology; adaptive physical education; vision impairment; deaf and hard of hearing; bio-medical or rehabilitation engineering.

Experience:

- Two (2) years successful experience with assistive technology; develop or implement assessment and consultation strategies for students with severe physical, cognitive or social/emotional disabilities and education modules and training workshops on assistive technology for parents and professionals.

Credentials:

- A valid California Education Specialist Credential with Assistive Technology Certificate.

Work Environment:

The following conditions may be present:

- Walking on uneven ground when outdoors;
- Exposure to student illness, 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 a satisfactory Department of Justice records check must be received by SCOE, prior to employment.
- TB testing will be required upon employment.
- Must pass a pre-employment physical (if applicable).
- May be required to obtain first aid and CPR certificates within the first 6-12 months of employment.
- May be required to drive with or without students; some positions may require a current California drivers license, proof of insurance, and possible participation in the DMV Pull Notice Program once employed.