

Jurisdiction: Ithaca City School District
Jurisdictional Class: Competitive
Adopted: 12/14/92
Revised: 09/13/93, 09/07/22

OCCUPATIONAL THERAPIST

DISTINGUISHING FEATURES OF THE CLASS: This is a professional position involving responsibility for developing, administering and/or supervising a program of rehabilitation activities for disabled students assigned to an occupational therapy program. Working cooperatively with the School District Committee on Special Education, the therapist analyzes and selects activities which should result in mental and physical improvement of pupils. The work is performed under the general supervision of the Director of Pupil Personnel Services with leeway allowed for the exercise of independent professional judgment and action. Supervision is exercised over the work of Occupational Therapy Assistants, and other staff as assigned. Does related work as required.

TYPICAL WORK ACTIVITIES:

Instructs disabled pupils in fine and gross motor development in areas needed for diversion, concentration, and improvement of vocational aptitudes;
Supervises and administers special exercises to improve pupils' physical disabilities with emphasis on preparation for vocational experiences;
Consults with local Committees on the Handicapped and professional staff in school districts about the capacity and needs of pupils;
Maintains supplies, materials and equipment; requisitions materials; makes recommendations for purchasing equipment;
Keeps accurate, correct records on aptitudes and progress of pupils;
Writes appropriate segments of the Individualized Education Program (IEP) for pupils receiving occupational therapy.

FULL PERFORMANCE KNOWLEDGES, SKILLS, ABILITIES, PERSONAL CHARACTERISTICS:

Good knowledge of the principles, methods, materials and equipment used in occupational therapy; good knowledge of materials and equipment required for progressive therapy programs; ability to apply principles and practices of occupational therapy; ability to plan, direct and lay out activities adapted to pupils' specific disabilities; ability to devise methods and activities that will help rehabilitate patients; ability to communicate effectively and motivate patients; ability to prepare and maintain written records and reports; good judgment; creativity; initiative; physical condition commensurate with the demands of the position.

MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS: Possession of a Bachelor's Degree in occupational therapy.

Note: College degrees must have been awarded by a college or university accredited by a regional, national, or specialized agency recognized as an accrediting agency by the U.S. Department of Education and/or U.S. Secretary of Education. If an applicant's degree was awarded by an educational institution outside the United States and its territories, the applicant must provide independent verification of equivalency. A list of acceptable companies who provide this service can be found at <https://www.cs.ny.gov/jobseeker/degrees.cfm>. Applicants are responsible for payment of the required evaluation fee.

SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS:

Possession of a license to practice occupational therapy in New York State and maintenance of said license for the duration of employment.