



Job Title: **Physical Therapy Assistant**

Position Description

To perform this job successfully, an individual must be able to perform the essential job functions consistently and to the satisfaction of the employer. Reasonable accommodations may be made for qualified disabled individuals. This job description is not an exhaustive list, as employees may be required to perform duties not specifically designated within this document, at the employer's discretion. The Escambia County School District reserves the right to modify or interpret this job description as needed.

FLSA Status: Nonexempt
Reports to: Appropriate Supervisor or Designee
Supervises: Appropriate Staff as required
Pay Grade: Professional – 10

APPROVED
ESCAMBIA COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD

JUNE 20, 2017

MALCOLM THOMAS, SUPERINTENDENT
VERIFIED BY RECORDING SECRETARY

JOB SUMMARY

The purpose of this job is to develop and implement a plan of treatment for students with physical disabilities through an ongoing and successful program for the students, staff, and the District of Escambia County.

ESSENTIAL JOB FUNCTIONS

- Participates in the assessments of physical function.
- Demonstrates knowledge of anatomy and physiology as it relates to student's physical disabilities.
- Assists and performs non-standardized assessment/screening techniques under the supervision of a PT (i.e., measure of joint range of motion, muscle strength, functional assessments within the school environment and/or community, posture, and gait analysis).
- May modify a specific treatment procedure in accordance with changes in the student's status within the scope of the established treatment plan.
- Determines therapeutic goals in conjunction with PT.
- Reports any observation data that relates to student performance to PT.
- Reviews standardized/non-standardized assessment results with the PT.
- Confers with PT and IEP team to assist in the development of the Individualized Educational Plan (IEP) goals and objectives as determined through physical therapy assessment on assigned students.
- Carries out the Plan of Care provided by PT.
- Maintains communication with PT regarding assigned students, with a minimum of monthly supervisory visits, and regularly scheduled documented communication determined by student needs and the assistant's skill level.
- Participates in the IEP meetings.
- Presents any physical therapy related IEP goals and objectives on assigned students.
- Communicates effectively, both orally and in writing, with other professionals, students, parents, and the community.

- Assistants may sign the IEP and FSP to indicate they were present for the meeting. Everyone working with the student should have input on the goals and objectives developed for the student during the IEP meeting. The PT should have primary responsibility for collaborating with the assistant and/or IEP team as to which goals and objectives might be appropriate in helping the student achieve his/her educational goals.
- Provides intervention services to students as established through the IEP.
- Adheres to the frequency of intervention as determined by the IEP.
- Carries out IEP goals.
- Demonstrates appropriate planning, space, and equipment use when administering therapeutic techniques.
- Practices proper safety techniques and precautions.
- Utilizes the team approach in working with therapists, teachers, parents, aides, and attendants.
- Implements and reinforces educational goals and objectives as they relate to functional mobility, communication, self-care, gross motor skill development, and postural control.
- Communicates with other team members in a professional, effective manner.
- Works in conjunction with the physical education teacher in providing intervention during physical education.
- Participates in the development of home programs.
- Administers trans-disciplinary interventions with other team members.
- Consults, instructs, and assists classroom teachers, aides, and attendants regarding positioning and handling, exercise programs, and equipment utilization.
- Demonstrates knowledge of proper positioning, handling, transfers, and exercise programs.
- Participates in the development of classroom mobility and positioning suggestions.
- Instructs, consults, and assists with activities of daily living.
- Assists in administrative duties.
- Maintains written records that document therapy sessions and provide information on student progress.
- Assists PT with preparing the end of the grading period or end of year progress reports on assigned students.
- Assists PT with written communication with parents, physicians, wheelchair providers, and other vendors, as needed.
- Organizes physical therapy schedule for assigned students.
- Assists with determining and meeting student's adaptive and positioning equipment needs, including orthotics and prosthetic needs.
- Participates in construction, maintenance, and repair of adaptive and assistive equipment.
- Demonstrates knowledge of proper use and handling of equipment.
- Instructs others in the proper and safe use of adaptive equipment, orthotics, and prosthetics.
- Serves as a parent resource for adaptive equipment.
- Attends and participates in scheduled therapy meetings, in services, and school staff meetings.
- Participates in in-service training of staff regarding body mechanics in the positioning of students and in the use of adaptive equipment.
- Attends county wide therapist meetings and in services.

- Attends base school meetings, if requested.
- Attends scheduled staffing on assigned students.
- Maintains confidentiality of student records and other professional information.
- Performs other duties as assigned

MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS

- Associate Degree in Applied Science (A.A.S.) from an accredited educational institution with an accredited Physical Therapy Assistant curriculum.
- Possess a current licensure in Florida as Physical Therapist Assistant.
- One (1) year of experience, pediatric experience preferred.
- Qualifications may vary from the above requirements to such a degree as the Superintendent and the Board determine necessary and appropriate to ensure properly qualified personnel in each specialized assignment.

KNOWLEDGE, SKILLS, AND ABILITIES

- Requires the ability to provide therapy to students under the direction and supervision of a physical therapist (PT).
- Requires the ability to assist as a licensed professional who can assist in the practice of the specified therapy as defined in both Chapters 468 and 486, F. S.
- Requires the ability to determine the approach for work using guidelines provided.
- Requires the ability to perform professional-level work dealing with data, people, and technology that relates to administrative, technical, scientific, engineering, accounting, legal, or managerial skills.
- Requires the ability to work in a responsive environment where co-workers or citizens bring problems for resolution.
- Requires the ability to maintain accountability for inventory/property management.
- Requires the ability to use computers and small/light equipment.

PHYSICAL DEMANDS

Very Heavy Work: Exerting in excess of 100 pounds of force occasionally, and/or in excess of 50 pounds of force frequently, and/or in excess of 20 pounds of force as needed to move objects. The work also requires the following physical abilities in order to perform the essential job functions: balancing, crawling, grasping, handling, hearing, kneeling, lifting, mental acuity, pulling, pushing, reaching, repetitive motion, speaking, standing, stooping, talking, visual acuity, and walking.

WORKING CONDITIONS

Employees in this position work in a dynamic environment that requires sensitivity to change and responsive to changing goals, priorities, and needs.

Date of Board Approval: June 20, 2017, effective July 1, 2017

Date of Revision: