TEACHER — ORIENTATION AND MOBILITY SPECIALIST

DEFINITION
Under direction, to teach and instruct visually impaired handicapped pupils in multiple grade levels in orientation and mobility skills, independent living skills, academic, social, behavioral management skills areas; to plan, develop, organize, and conduct a comprehensive individualized educational and remedial program for visually impaired pupils; to assist visually impaired students in making an appropriate adjustment to mainstreamed educational and independent living skill processes; and to do other related functions as required.

DISTINGUISHING CHARACTERISTICS
This position classification requires subject matter expertise commonly associated with teaching and instruction of visually impaired students. Directly related teaching and instruction experience is required to perform the specialized teaching, instruction and training of visually impaired pupils. Must be able to perform problem analysis using prescribed principles, methods and concepts. The position classification makes decisions of considerable consequence, in determining how best to instruct and train visually impaired pupils. The functional role of this position classification requires the application and interpretation of data, facts, procedures, and policies pertaining to visually impaired pupils. The incumbent meets frequently with school administrators, teachers, and other staff and parents to communicate information, data, and alternative problem solutions.

EXAMPLE OF DUTIES
- Teaches, instructs, and trains visually impaired pupils in orientation and strategies and techniques, self help and independent living skills, and subject matter areas such as appropriate to the student Individual Education Plan
- Adapts an adopted course of study, program instruction guidelines, and instructional materials in meeting the orientation and mobility and self-help needs of visually impaired students
- Utilizes a variety of methodology in teaching and instructing pupils, including remedial instruction, demonstration, and activity participation
• Assists students in the development of community social skills, self-help in public transportation travel, making purchases in community businesses, and other independent living skills
• Prepares, develops, and utilizes a variety of instructional and training materials and aids appropriate to the instructional level of pupils with a wide range of mental, physical, and emotional maturity
• Reviews, analyzes, and evaluates the history, background, and assessment of pupils in designing an educational program to meet the individual educational needs
• Individualizes instructional processes and adapts program activities to enhance pupil educational opportunities
• Provides individual and group instruction in Braille communication using a standard Braille or electronic Braille transcriber
• Establishes and maintains standards of student behavior utilizing behavior management strategies and techniques, including behavior modification, reinforcement, and other positive behavior shaping processes
• Reviews, analyzes, and evaluates pupil academic, social, and orientation and mobility development and growth
• Record and report appropriate analyses and perceptions of pupil progress
• Counsels, confers, and communicates with parents, school and district personnel regarding pupil progress, and in the interpretation of the orientation and mobility educational program
• Works cooperatively with the IEP team in assessing pupil needs and learning deficiencies, and develops alternative solutions to accommodate visually impaired pupil learning and behavior management problems
• Selects and requisitions appropriate educational supplies, materials, books, equipment, and learning aids
• Performs a variety of non-instructional duties, including curriculum and instructional development activities, student supervision, and advisory and consultation activities.

QUALIFICATIONS GUIDE

Knowledge of:
• Principles, theories, methods, techniques, and strategies pertaining to teaching, instruction, and orientation and mobility training of visually impaired pupils

• Child growth and development and behavior characteristics of children experiencing visual, educational and social dysfunctions

• Educational curriculum and instructional goals and objectives, and the educational trends and research findings pertaining to the visually impaired student

• Behavioral management and behavior shaping strategies, techniques and methods, and conflict resolution procedures

• Socio-economic and cultural background differences of the student population

Ability to:

• Plan, organize, develop, and conduct a comprehensive orientation and mobility, self-help, academic training and instruction program for visually impaired students

• Provide effective learning experiences for pupils from a wide range of socio-economic and cultural backgrounds and with varying mental, social and emotional levels

• Effectively assist in the assessment of the educational and communication needs of visually impaired pupils, and the design, development, and implementation of individual education plans, including Braille and other means of communication

• Perform research and development activities pertaining to curriculum and instruction programs, pilot projects, and innovative programs designed to enhance student educational opportunities and experiences

EXPERIENCE AND EDUCATION

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

Experience:

• Successful completion of an orientation and mobility student teaching program at a recognized college or university, or two years of full time orientation and mobility instruction experience
Education:

- Possession of an earned Baccalaureate or higher degree from an accredited college or university with emphasis in special education, orientation and mobility instruction, instructional technology, and subject matter fields commonly taught in the elementary or secondary school levels.

Certification Requirement:
Possession of a credential authorizing service as an orientation and mobility specialist

Physical:
Good physical condition; able to pass required District physical.

WORK ENVIRONMENT AND PHYSICAL REQUIREMENTS:

This is a position classification that performs light work, but does require walking and standing for extended periods. This position requires the ability to move quickly to respond to pupils with visual impairment problems. The job also requires the accurate perceiving of sound, near and far vision, depth perception, handling and working with educational learning aids, instructional materials and objects, and providing oral information and instructional detail.

ESSENTIAL JOB FUNCTIONS:

- Visual ability to read handwritten or typed documents, and the display screen of various office equipment and machines
- Able to conduct verbal conversation
- Able to hear normal range verbal conversation (approximately 60 decibels)
- Able to sit, stand, stoop, kneel, bend and walk
- Able to sit for sustained periods of time
- Able to kneel or squat for extended periods of time
- Able to climb slopes, stairs, steps, ramps and ladders
- Able to lift up to 50 pounds
- Able to carry up to 50 pounds
- Able to push and pull objects weighing up to 100 pounds
- Able to sustain strenuous manual labor for a minimum of 3.75 hrs.
- Able to exhibit full range of motion for:
• shoulder external rotation and internal rotation
• shoulder abduction and adduction
• elbow flexion and extension
• shoulder extension and flexion
• back lateral flexion
• hip flexion and extension
• knee flexion
• Able to demonstrate manual dexterity necessary to operate a computer and other classroom equipment in a safe and efficient manner
• Able to work with cleaning solutions, disinfectants and sanitizes in a safe and effective manner without allergic reaction
• Able to demonstrate manual dexterity necessary to assist students with buttoning clothing and eating, operate a computer, or assist staff with toileting/diapering procedures

While the ideal candidate will possess all these abilities, duties assigned can be modified to accommodate some physical restrictions.