

## ORIENTATION AND MOBILITY INSTRUCTOR

Code No.: 5-15-004

COMPETITIVE

DISTINGUISHING FEATURES OF THE CLASS: This is a responsible position in a school district which provides training in orientation and mobility skills and techniques to blind or visually impaired children to enable them to travel safely, efficiently and effectively in various environments. The work is performed both indoors and outdoors, in classroom and field sites under the general supervision of an administrative staff member. Supervision of others is not a responsibility of this class. Does related work as required.

### TYPICAL WORK ACTIVITIES:

Conducts field mobility training related to traveling in home, residential, business, downtown and/or rural areas, including use of public transportation;

Teaches orientation and mobility concepts through various sensory mediums;

Conducts comprehensive training for development of remaining senses, including functions of auditory, tactual, olfactory, and kinesthetic senses, in addition to visualization, cognitive development, and the integration of spatial relationships for optimal orientation within any environment;

Provides training in uses of basic sighted guide techniques, indoor protective techniques, and/or long canes, for indoor and outdoor travel in familiar and unfamiliar environments;

Provides training in optimal usage of residual vision, including use of prescribed low vision aids;

Evaluates students' individual visual abilities on a functional level to determine specific training needs;

Consults with resource experts in medical and other professional fields to determine assessments and recommendations regarding students' educational placement and programming;

Prepares brief narrative assessment reports regarding students' orientation and mobility training needs.

### FULL PERFORMANCE KNOWLEDGES, SKILLS, ABILITIES AND PERSONNAL

CHARACTERISTICS: Good knowledge of skills and techniques of orientation and mobility training; good knowledge of skills and techniques for various sensory development; ability to conduct comprehensive classroom and field site orientation and mobility training program; ability to

evaluate individual student training needs; ability to prepare brief narrative assessments and progress reports; ability to establish and maintain effective professional relationships with students, medical and other professional resource experts; patience; sensitivity; physical condition commensurate with the demands of the position.

MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS: EITHER:

- (A) Graduation from a regionally accredited or New York State registered college or university with a Master's degree with specialization in peripatology; OR,
- (B) Graduation from a regionally accredited or New York State registered college or university with a Bachelor's degree in education, special education, visual disabilities, a paramedical specialty or related field, and completion of a certified training course, internship, or program in peripatology; OR,
- (C) Graduation from high school or possession of a high school equivalency diploma and four (4) years of paid full-time or its part-time/volunteer equivalent experience in the provision or direction of mobility and orientation training for the blind and/or visually impaired and completion of a certified training course, internship, or program in peripatology; OR,
- (D) An equivalent combination of training and experience as defined by the limits of (A), (B) and (C).

SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS:

Certification by the American Association of Workers for the Blind as an Orientation and Mobility Instructor.

Possession of a current New York State Class V license at time of appointment.

**SPECIAL REQUIREMENT FOR APPOINTMENT IN SCHOOL DISTRICTS AND BOCES**

Per Chapter 180 of the Laws of 2000, and by Regulations of the Commissioner of Education, to be employed in a position designated by a school district or BOCES as involving direct contact with students, a clearance for employment from the State Education Department is required.

ADOPTED: May 27, 1982

REVISED: June 17, 1982