

# Napa Valley Unified School District

# Position Description

**Position:** School Psychologist

**Classification:** Special Education

**Reports to:** Director, Special Education

## Summary

To provide school psychologist services to the district programs, including testing, consulting with general and special education staff; to assist in meeting the social, emotional, behavioral and educational needs of students, including students with disabilities.

## Distinguishing Career Features

Under the direction of the Director of Special Education and/or the designee of the Director, the school psychologist offers direct and consultative services to staff (Management, Certificated and Classified) as well as to students, parents and public and private community agencies in the task of generating educational environments which are of benefit to students.

## Essential Duties and Responsibilities

- Conducts personal psycho-educational evaluations of referred candidates to include psychometric assessments, observation in the regular school situation, social, economic background factors; emotional and behavioral factors; education history, remediation attempts; and psychological adjustment.
- Assesses students' functional capabilities and home and/or classroom environment for the purpose of determining student's functional level and developing recommendations and/or placement.
- Confers with parents to evaluate relevant family factors.
- Prepares timely written reports of the findings with specific recommendations.
- Presents psycho-educational findings to the Individual Educational Program (IEP) team, describes how the findings relate to the student's functioning in the regular program, and provides subsequent consultation to ensure a successful special education placement.
- Assists in the development of specific educational objective for areas requiring remediation.
- Confers with and obtains or shares data with community resources with parental consent.
- Re-evaluates special education students to determine individual progress and to recommend needed educational program changes as specified by State Law, Education Code, and/or District policies.
- Acts on referrals, makes diagnosis and recommendations to teachers, administrators, and parents concerning special learning needs of children who are not eligible for special education programs.
- Conducts ongoing individual counseling and/or group counseling on a variety of topics to facilitate interpersonal success.
- Provides individual crisis counseling. Intervenes in occurrences of inappropriate behavior of students for the purpose of assisting students in modifying such behavior; develops behavioral plans.
- Provides staff development on topics, such as physical and developmental disabilities; medical disorders, and instructional/behavioral strategies.
- Conducts classroom presentations to students on a variety of topics that facilitate positive interpersonal relationships and self-esteem.
- Consults with teachers and parents to develop effective instructional; and/or behavioral plans.
- Provides consultative assistance at a variety of educational meetings, such as Student Success Team meetings, IEP meetings, and parent conferences for the purpose of providing information.
- Acts as a liaison between community resources, and the school; and interagency collaboration.
- Researches resources and methods (intervention and treatment techniques, assessment tools, community resources, etc.) for the purpose of determining appropriate approach for addressing students' specific needs.
- Participates in the development and implementation of programs and procedures that enhance learning, self-esteem, and interpersonal relationships; conducts ongoing evaluation of subsequent programs and procedures.

## Position Description: School Psychologist

- Acts as a liaison with administrators, teachers, students, staff, family, and community members.
- Supervision of intern PPS workers.
- Other projects as may be assigned by the Director of Special Education.

### **Qualifications**

Minimum of a Master's Degree and a valid California Pupil Personnel Services School Psychology Credential. Must hold a valid CA Driver License and must provide proof of automobile insurance coverage. Testing of tuberculosis (skin test or chest x-ray) is required upon employment and every four years thereafter. Clearance from the Department of Justice (DOJ) and Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) required upon employment.

### **Knowledge and Skills**

Knowledge and skills in the administration and interpretation of results of a wide variety of psycho-educational assessment instruments including WISC, Stanford-Binet, WRAT, Bender Visual Motor Gestalt Leiter, other instruments as needed and appropriate to complete an assessment; skill in communicating assessment results effectively, both orally and in writing; interpersonal communication, consultation and group leadership skills necessary to work effectively with students, parents, teachers and administrators; skill in psychological counselling, both individual and group, behavior management and parent education; skills in planning and conducting in-service programs.

### **Abilities**

Ability to effectively communicate with a wide variety of audiences. Ability to effectively manage time. The ability to effectively assess, evaluate, prepare and deliver required psychological reports in the IEP setting.

### **Physical Abilities**

Physical, mental and emotional stamina to perform the duties and responsibilities of the position; manual dexterity sufficient to write, use telephone, business machines; vision sufficient to read printed materials; hearing sufficient to conduct in person and telephone conversations; speaking ability in an understandable voice with sufficient volume to be heard in normal conversational distance, on the telephone; physical agility to push/pull, squat, twist, bend, stoop and reach overhead; physical mobility sufficient to move about the work environment (office, district, from school or home site-to-site), drive an automobile, and respond to emergency situations; physical stamina sufficient to sit, stand and walk for prolonged periods of time, mental acuity to collect and interpret data, evaluate, reason, define problems, establish facts, draw valid conclusions, make valid judgments and decisions.

### **Education and Experience**

Master's Degree Required

### **Licenses and Certificates**

Pupil Personnel Services - School Psychology

### **Working Conditions**

The majority of this position is in an office setting however candidates must be comfortable providing interventions and conducting observations outdoors, as necessary.