

School Psychologist

QUALIFICATIONS:

Certification: Appropriate Illinois Certification

REPORTS TO:

Direct Supervisor: Special Education Coordinator

VISION:

The school psychologist applies professional understandings of child psychological development and pathology, instructional and programmatic interventions, and special education law and regulations. The school psychologist provides psychometric and observational data essential to the evaluation of students' eligibility for special education services. In addition, the school psychologist consults with administrators and teachers in the planning, implementation, and evaluation of interventions for students eligible for special education services, and at times, for students in the general population. Together with the special education social worker, the school psychologist carries case management responsibility for all students referred for evaluation or identified as eligible for special education services

JOB GOALS:

- All special education decisions will be informed by knowledge of child psychological development and pathology, instructional and programmatic interventions, and of law and regulations.
- Student eligibility for—or entitlement to—special education programming shall be based upon appropriate information, including but not limited to psychometric and observational data, consultation with administrators, teachers and parents, and research on the relative effectiveness of intervention strategies and programs.

RESPONSIBILITIES:

Planning and Preparation

- Use psychological instruments to evaluate students
- Know child and adolescent development and psychopathology
- Establish goals for the psychology program appropriate to the setting and the students served
- Know state and federal regulations and resources, both within and beyond the school and district
- Plan the psychology program, integrated with the regular school program, to meet the needs of individual students, including prevention
- Develop a plan to evaluate the psychology program

The Environment

- Establish rapport with students, using interpersonal skills, such as empathy to establish trust and reduce anxiety
- Establish a culture for positive mental health throughout the school
- Establish a culture for productive communication
- Establish standards of conduct, and contributes to the culture for student behavior throughout the school
- Establish clear procedures for referrals
- Establish standards of conduct in the testing center
- Organize physical space for testing of students and storage of materials
- Establish and maintain norms of behavior for professional interactions

Delivery of Service

- Collaborate with service team members to provide coordinated case
- Respond to referrals, consult with teachers and administrators
- Evaluate student needs (in compliance with NASP guidelines)
- Use counseling techniques, in individual and classroom programs
- Plan interventions to maximize students' likelihood of success
- Maintain contact with physicians and community mental health service providers
- Demonstrate flexibility and responsiveness
- Serve as LEA representative in IEP meetings

Professional Responsibilities

- Reflect on practice
- Communicate with families (establishing rapport and ensuring that permission has been obtained)
- Maintain accurate records
- Participate in a professional community with an emphasis on positive and supportive interactions
- Engage in professional development

- Show professionalism, including integrity, advocacy and maintaining confidentiality
- Supervise school psychologist interns.

TERMS OF EMPLOYMENT:

Work Day:

Atypical schedule.

Work Year:

180 days; per diem or stipend summer work possible.

Bargaining Unit:

Exempt.

Salary and Benefits:

Per schedule for exempt employees.

EVALUATION:

Per district procedures for exempt employees.