

ORANGE UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

CLASSIFICATION **SPECIFICATION**

MIDDLE SCHOOL OPPORTUNITIES TEACHER

DEFINITION

Under direction, facilitates and coordinates the implementation of a middle school non-traditional classroom intervention program, provides special instruction to individuals and small groups of students with identified academic and behavioral needs; and does other related functions as required. This position is directly responsible to the Principal.

DISTINGUISHING CHARACTERISTICS

This position classification requires subject matter expertise commonly associated with middle school teaching and instruction. Directly related teaching and instruction experience is required to perform problem analysis using prescribed principles, methods and concepts. A teacher in this classification performs decision analysis and makes decisions of considerable consequence, in determining how best to aid students in the learning and behavior modification process. The level of instruction is frequently based on the educational or social deficiency of the group or of a particular individual. Emphasis is on the methodology of instructing “at risk” students rather than on the routine presentation of subject matter. The functional role of this position classification requires the application and interpretation of data, facts, procedures and policies. The incumbent meets frequently with school administrators, other teachers, internal staff and members of the community to communicate information, data and alternative problem solutions.

This position classification performs light work, but does require walking and standing for extended periods and may occasionally require moving or lifting of up to fifty (50) pounds. This position requires accurate perceiving of sound, near and far vision, depth perception, handling and working with materials and objects and providing oral information. The position requires the individual to meet multiple demands from several people and interact with the public and other staff.

Reasonable accommodation may be made to enable a person with a disability to perform the essential functions of the job.

ESSENTIAL DUTIES

- Provides individual and small group instruction designed to meet individual needs and motivate students in an alternative classroom setting.
- Provides learning experiences and teaches the course of study prescribed by the District approved curriculum including technology and efficiently utilizes the time available for instruction.
- Develops lesson plans and uses instructional materials suitable for verbal and/or visual instruction of students with a wide range of intellectual, physical and emotional maturity.
- Establishes and maintains standards of student behavior and socially accepted attitudes required to achieve effective participation and learning in all activities.
- Models and encourages students to understand and adopt the use of proper social habits and citizenship.

MIDDLE SCHOOL OPPORTUNITIES TEACHER (Continued)

- Evaluates the educational progress of students in terms of class work and individual goal accomplishments in relation to the student's attitude, conduct and ability.
- Provides appropriate instruction and activities for students to meet school/District policies, goals and objectives.
- Avails self to students, parents and staff for education-related purposes outside the instructional day.
- Counsels and encourages students toward higher educational goals.
- Identifies student needs and cooperates with other professional staff members in assessing and helping students solve health, attitude and learning problems.
- Maintains professional competence through inservice education activities provided by the District and/or professional growth activities and university courses.
- Participates cooperatively with the appropriate administrators to develop the method by which she/he will be evaluated in conformance with District guidelines.
- Selects and requisitions materials necessary to provide appropriate learning experiences.
- Maintains records as required by the school, District and/or state and makes appropriate reports as directed.
- Participates in supervision of Opportunities students during out-of-classroom activities.
- Participates in faculty and/or District meetings, committees and the sponsorship of student activities.
- Perform related duties as assigned.

QUALIFICATIONS

Knowledge of:

- Principles, theories, methods, techniques and strategies pertaining to teaching and instruction of elementary students;
- Child growth and development and behavior characteristics of middle school students, especially unique issues of behaviorally “at-risk” students;
- Educational curriculum and instructional goals and objectives, and the educational trends and research findings pertaining to student educational programming;
- Behavior management and behavior shaping strategies, techniques and methods, and conflict resolution procedures;
- Socio-economic and cultural background differences of the general school population;
- Technology including computers and computer programs.

Ability to:

- Plan, organize, develop, and enthusiastically conduct a comprehensive teaching and instruction program for pupils in a non-traditional middle school setting with students who may be considered “at risk” by school authorities;
- Apply concepts and abstract learnings to practical situations;
- Provide effective learning experiences for students with a wide range of socio-economic and cultural backgrounds and with varying mental, social and emotional levels;
- Effectively assess the educational needs of students and design, develop and implement sound individualized educational plans;

- Provide an attractive, inviting and stimulating learning environment;
- Gain the interest, respect and cooperation of students;
- Perform research and development activities pertaining to related middle school curriculum and instruction programs, pilot projects and innovative programs designed to enhance student educational opportunities and experiences;
- Communicate effectively in oral and written form using grammatically correct language;
- Understand and carry out oral and written directions with minimal accountability controls;
- Establish and maintain cooperative and effective working relationships;
- Utilize technology and operate computers and computer programs.

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 student teaching at a recognized college or university; participation in a recognized teacher intern program or successful classroom teaching experience, preferably in a middle school setting.

Education: Possession of a valid California teaching credential based on a Baccalaureate or higher degree from an accredited college or university with emphasis in an academic major or minor, subject matter fields commonly taught in secondary grade levels.

OTHER REQUIREMENTS

Certification Requirement: Possession of a valid California credential authorizing service as a teacher in grade levels and areas assigned; appropriate certification for teaching English Language Learners; evidence of compliance with the Highly Qualified Teacher requirements of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act, Title II (No Child Left Behind).

Condition of Employment: Insurability by the District's liability insurance carrier.

Personal Qualities: Appearance, grooming and personality which establish a desirable example for students. Above-average recommendations from student teaching supervisors and/or other professionals who have observed the personal characteristics, scholastic attainment and classroom performance of the teacher.