

FORSYTH COUNTY SCHOOLS

Position: Certified Orientation and Mobility Specialist

Salary Schedule: Teacher/190-day

Date Posted: 07/10/24

FLSA Status: Exempt

Department: Special Education

Retirement: TRS

Education, Certification and/or Experience

Certification as an Orientation and Mobility Specialist (COMS) from a recognized certifying body (e.g., Academy for Certification of Vision Rehabilitation and Education Professionals - ACVREP). Bachelor's or Master's degree in Orientation and Mobility, Special Education, Rehabilitation, or a related field. Strong understanding of the principles and techniques of orientation and mobility for individuals with visual impairments. Valid driver's license and ability to travel to various locations as required.

The Orientation & Mobility Specialist Responsibilities:

- Conduct comprehensive orientation and mobility assessments for individuals with visual impairments.
- Evaluate the strengths, needs, and limitations of students in relation to their mobility and orientation skills.
- Develop individualized orientation and mobility plans based on assessment results.
- Set measurable goals and objectives to enhance the independent travel skills of students.
- Provide direct instruction in orientation and mobility techniques, including cane travel, use of electronic travel aids, and sensory awareness.
- Teach students to navigate safely and efficiently in various environments such as home, school, workplace, and community settings.
- Educate students on concepts of spatial orientation, body image, and environmental analysis.
- Collaborate with teachers, parents, caregivers, and other professionals to support the mobility and orientation needs of students.
- Participate in Individualized Education Program (IEP) meetings and contribute to the development of IEP Advocate for the needs and rights of individuals with visual impairments in educational and community settings.
- Provide guidance and resources to families and caregivers to support the orientation and mobility development of students.
- Stay current with best practices, research, and advancements in the field of orientation and mobility.
- Participate in ongoing professional development opportunities and maintain certification as required by professional standards.
- Maintain accurate and confidential records of assessments, instructional plans, progress notes, and other relevant documentation.
- Prepare and submit reports as required by the school district.
- Work is performed in schools, homes, community environments, and other settings where students require orientation and mobility instruction.
- Physical demands include standing, walking, and traveling with students in various weather conditions and terrains.

Position Summary

Under the supervision of the Related Services Coordinator, the Orientation & Mobility Specialist provides various instructional supports and strategies for the Special Education students with visual impairments in all grade levels according to IDEA requirements.