

Orleans/Niagara BOCES
General Special Education Teacher

Job Responsibilities (Illustrative):

Classroom Instruction: Special education teachers work with children who have a variety of disabilities. Special education teachers teach children with disabilities, using or modifying the general education curriculum commensurate with the ability level and needs of the class group and of individual children within the class.

Special education teachers may also instruct groups of students in life skills (i.e. personal hygiene, social interaction skills, etiquette) and basic literacy (such as language and communication skills).

Special education teachers may also instruct students in and engage in exercise and physical activities.

Lesson Planning: Special education teachers develop and implement lesson plans to match the needs of the students.

Record Keeping: Special education teachers maintain and review daily records regarding student attendance, behavior, progress, and services received. The teachers observe and record updated information on a daily basis regarding individual student learning progress and completed tasks, mood and behavior, care giving needs and services received.

Consulting and Curriculum Development: Special education teachers design and develop curricula appropriate to the needs and abilities of the groups and individual students receiving instruction.

Other Responsibilities:

- May be called upon to physically restrain students who are acting out.
- May be required to sit, squat or kneel on the floor to gain attention of the student and perform instruction at the students' level.
- Plans a program of study that meets the individual needs, interests and abilities of students in accordance with IEP goals and objectives.
- Provides primary instruction and/or consultation through development of modification of curriculum and activities designed to meet individual student needs.
- Employs a variety of instructional techniques and media, consistent with the physical limitations of the location provided and the needs and capabilities of the individual or student groups involved.
- Develops a positive classroom learning environment that is student-centered, conducive to learning and is appropriate to the maturity, ability and interests of the student.
- Manages student behavior through the use of educationally sound methods and management systems designed to develop behavior which demonstrates respect for self and others.
- Coordinates team lesson plans, where appropriate.

- Provide a basic core program for students in special education programs consistent with state education code requirements.
- Work cooperatively with classroom teachers who have students in special education programs, interpreting the abilities and disabilities of these students to the entire staff and assisting the students with the regular class assignments.
- Confer frequently with parents and professional staff members regarding the educational, social, and personal problems of each student.
- Assist other professional staff members in resolving the unique psychological or disciplinary problems of each student.
- Assist in screening, evaluating, and recommending placements of applicants in the school's special education program.
- Assist students in special education programs in making realistic assessments of their abilities and in establishing educational and occupational goals in keeping with these abilities.
- Provide motivation to students who have short attention spans.
- Undertake continuing professional study in the psychology of students in special education programs in teaching methods related to this field.
- Participate in transition planning and preparation for adult life experiences.
- Perform other responsibilities as assigned.

Other Requirements: Must maintain regular attendance and dependability.