

**Job Title:** Special Education Teacher

**Wage/Hour Status:** Exempt

**Reports to:** Principal

**Primary Purpose:**

The mission of Life School is to develop leaders with life skills through strong academics, character training, and partnerships with parents and the community.

In support of the Life School mission, a **Teacher-Secondary-Special Education** will provide special education students with learning activities and experiences designed to help them fulfill their potential for intellectual, emotional, physical, and social growth. Develop or modify curricula and prepare lessons and other instructional materials to student ability levels. Work in self-contained, team, departmental, or itinerant capacity as assigned.

**Qualifications:**

**Education/Certification:**

Bachelor's degree from accredited university

Valid Texas teaching certificate with required special education endorsements for assignments

ESL certification preferred

**Special Knowledge/Skills:**

Knowledge of special needs of students in assigned area

Knowledge of Admission, Review, and Dismissal (ARD) Committee process and Individual Education Plan (IEP) goal setting process and implementation

General knowledge of curriculum and instruction

**Experience:**

At least one year student teaching or approved internship preferred

**Major Responsibilities and Duties:**

**Instructional Strategies**

- Collaborate with students, parents, and other members of staff to develop IEP through the ARD Committee process for each student assigned.
- Implement an instructional, therapeutic, or skill development program for assigned students and show written evidence of preparation as required.
- Plan and use appropriate instructional and learning strategies, activities, materials, and equipment that reflect understanding of the learning styles and needs of students assigned.
- Work cooperatively with classroom teachers to modify regular curricula as needed and assist special education students in regular classes with assignments.
- Participate in ARD Committee meetings on a regular basis.
- Conduct assessment of student learning styles and use results to plan for instructional activities.
- Present subject matter according to TEKS and guidelines established by IEP.
- Employ a variety of instructional techniques and media to meet the needs and capabilities of each student assigned.
- Use technology in teaching/learning process.

**Student Growth and Development**

- Conduct ongoing assessments of student achievement through formal and informal testing.
- May provide or supervise medical administrations and other personal care student services.

- Assume responsibility for extracurricular activities as assigned. Sponsor outside activities approved by campus principal.
- Be a positive role model for students; support mission of school district.

**Classroom Management and Organization**

- Create classroom environment conducive to learning and appropriate for the physical, social, and emotional development of students.
- Manage student behavior and administer discipline. This includes intervening in crisis situations and physically restraining students as necessary according to IEP.
- Consult with classroom teachers regarding management of student behavior according to IEP.
- Consult district and outside resource people regarding education, social, medical, and personal needs of students.
- Take all necessary and reasonable precautions to protect students, equipment, materials, and facilities.
- Assist in selection of books, equipment, and other instructional materials.

**Communication**

- Establish and maintain open communication by conducting conferences with parents, students, principals, and teachers.
- Maintain a professional relationship with colleagues, students, parents, and community members.
- Use effective communication skills to present information accurately and clearly.

**Other**

- Participate in staff development activities to improve job-related skills.
- Keep informed of and comply with federal, state, district, and school regulations and policies for special education teachers.
- Compile, maintain, and file all physical and computerized reports, records, and other documents required.
- Attend and participate in faculty meetings and serve on staff committees as required.
- Other duties as assigned.

**Supervisory Responsibilities:**

Direct the work of possible assigned special education aide(s).

**Working Conditions:**

**Mental Demands/Physical Demands/Environmental Factors:**

Maintain emotional control under stress; work prolonged or irregular hours. Frequent standing, stooping, bending, walking, pulling and pushing. Move small stacks of textbooks, media equipment, desks, and other classroom or adaptive equipment. Work may be required both inside and outside.

May be required to lift and position students with physical disabilities; control behavior through physical restraint; and assist non-ambulatory students. Exposure to biological hazards.

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The foregoing statements describe the general purpose and responsibilities assigned to this job and are not an exhaustive list of all responsibilities and duties that may be assigned or skills that may be required.

Employee Printed Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Supervisor Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_