

**SCHOOL PSYCHOLOGIST**

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**TITLE:** School Psychologist

**REPORTS TO:** Special Education Assessment Coordinator

**SUPERVISES:** N/A

**JOB FUNCTION:** Conduct psychological assessments of students, and serve as the primary evaluator for diagnosis of disability and eligibility determination for students who have been referred for specialized instruction and related services.

**DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES:**

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- Conduct psychological assessment, utilizing a variety of techniques and measures, including standardized instruments, performance/curriculum based data collection, behavioral observations, interviews and rating scales, to evaluate academic skills, learning aptitudes, personality and emotional development, social skills, learning environments and school climate.
- Interpret evaluation results and complete a written integrated, multidisciplinary report of findings, including diagnosis and eligibility components, educational implications, recommendations, classroom/instructional modifications and accommodations, for students referred for specialized instruction and related services.
- Participate in Admissions and Release Committee meetings, as requested to assist in the referral process, identify, develop and monitor appropriate educational and behavioral strategies and interventions, develop an evaluation plan, present evaluation findings, diagnose specific disabilities and provide leadership in determining eligibility for special education and related services in accordance with local, state, and federal guidelines.
- Evaluate students suspected of having an Attention Deficit Hyperactive Disorder in order to offer a diagnosis as required by state and federal guidelines for eligibility as a student with an Other Health Impairment.

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**DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES (CONT.):**

- Conduct evaluations and provide diagnoses for students in accordance with criteria specified in the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual: Fourth Edition, as per requirements for Medicaid.
- Provide individual and small group psychological and supportive counseling services to children and youth, based upon the identified mental health needs of the student.
- Identify potential learning and behavioral difficulties, provide training and supports to parents and teachers to develop skills and strategies to cope with disruptive behaviors; and assist in designing programs for children at risk for failure.
- Assist in conducting threat assessments and in developing school-wide initiatives to make schools safer and more effective, while helping foster tolerance, understanding, and appreciation of diversity in the school setting.
- Provide social skills training, behavior management and other strategies focused on the development of specific competencies for students who demonstrate deficiencies, as well as engage in primary prevention activities for at-risk populations.
- Develop programs and provide professional development on topics related to psycho-educational and/or mental health issues, such as: teaching and learning strategies, classroom management techniques, working with students who have disabilities or unusual talents, substance abuse, or crisis management.
- Utilize current knowledge about learning and behavior to evaluate the effectiveness of academic programs, behavior management systems and other services as requested.
- Conduct research and planning activities to generate new knowledge about learning and behavior and contribute to planning and evaluating systems change, including school-wide reform and restructuring.
- Work with children, families, school personnel, medical and mental health service providers, and community agencies to provide integrated community services focusing on psychosocial wellness and health-related issues.

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**DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES (CONT.):**

- Act as a resource liaison with mental health and medical professionals, community agencies and other service providers to strengthen working relationships between educators, parents and community services.
- Maintains regular attendance
- Performs other duties as assigned

**PHYSICAL DEMANDS:**

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- Work is performed while standing, sitting and/or walking
- Requires the ability to communicate effectively using speech, vision and hearing
- Requires the use of hands for simple grasping and fine manipulations
- Requires bending, squatting, crawling, climbing, reaching
- Requires the ability to lift, carry, push or pull light weights

**EDUCATION AND EXPERIENCE:**

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- Master's Degree
- Must have extremely strong and effective public relations skills, and the ability to get along and work with people

**LICENSES AND OTHER REQUIREMENTS:**

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- Kentucky Certificate as a school psychologist

<p><i>Original Date:</i> _____</p> <p><i>Revision Date:</i> <u>02/2001</u></p> <p><i>Revision Date:</i> <u>07/2012</u></p>
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