OCCUPATIONAL THERAPIST

DISTINGUISHING FEATURES OF THE CLASS: This is professional work involving responsibility for occupational therapy casework in a program designed to meet therapeutic needs of selected individuals in a school district setting. Responsibilities include evaluating, planning and providing occupational therapy treatment to students in accordance with a referral from a physician or from a review committee. Progress is discussed with the program coordinator, teachers and parents. Work is performed under general supervision of a higher level administrator, doctor or program coordinator. Supervision may be exercised over certified occupational therapy assistants and/or other staff. Performs related work as required.

TYPICAL WORK ACTIVITIES: (Illustrative only)
Performs initial and annual screening, evaluation and consultation for students referred to the program;
Provides therapy to students identified in need of service;
Develops school-based goals, treatment objectives and therapeutic activities and tasks to be incorporated into the student’s individualized education plan;
Implements pediatric occupational therapy and/or oversees activities implemented by therapy assistants, providing supervision and guidance as necessary;
Maintains written case notes and other written documentation as required by school policy or by state law;
Attends and participates in staff conferences on students’ needs and progress;
Communicates with physicians, teachers, classroom support staff, and other staff who have student contact to ascertain progress or additional needs;
Develops home based programs where appropriate;
Assesses and makes recommendations regarding adaptive and orthotic equipment needs and monitors equipment status;
Maintains daily time sheets and medicaid statistic sheets as appropriate;
Conducts regular staff meetings with therapy assistants to review student progress and to adjust goals and activities as necessary;
Performs a variety of related activities as required.

FULL PERFORMANCE KNOWLEDGE, SKILLS, ABILITIES AND PERSONAL CHARACTERISTICS: Thorough knowledge of the methods, procedures and objectives of occupational therapy, especially as they apply to a pediatric caseload; good knowledge of the principles,
objectives and techniques of occupational therapy treatment; working knowledge of human anatomy, kinesiology and physiology as they relate to the evaluation and treatment of patients receiving occupational therapy; working knowledge of the terminology and practices of modern social casework; working knowledge of basic physical and recreational activities; ability to supervise the work of others; ability to relate sympathetically to a potentially difficult client population; ability to communicate effectively, both orally and in writing; organizational ability; enthusiasm; initiative; resourcefulness; patience; good judgment.

MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS:
Possession of license and current registration, issued by the New York State Education Department, as an Occupational Therapist.

SPECIAL REQUIREMENT:
Access to transportation may be required to complete possible field work assignments in a timely and efficient manner.