

SAMPLE JOB DESCRIPTION
Sign Support Specialist/Intervener
Code Reference §18A-4-8 and WVDE Board Policy 2419

A Sign Support Specialist (Position Code 518) may be assigned to a student who needs visual language to support learning.

WV Board Policy 2419 recognizes interveners as a specially trained person who works consistently one-to-one with a student who is deafblind. The intervener facilitates access to the environmental information that is usually gained through vision and hearing but which is incomplete to the child who is deafblind. The intervener helps the student gather information, learn concepts and skills and develop communication and language.

JOB DESCRIPTION SUMMARY:

Responsible for providing communication access through sign language in a wide range of instructional and extra-curricular activities within an educational program. Since deafblindness is primarily a disability of access, the student will require extensive and novel modifications to the existing educational model. The student must have continual access to information that is otherwise not available, in order to provide equal access. The intervener serves as a bridge to the world for student who is deafblind, which allows the student to develop a sense of trust and security that will enable them to learn.

ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES:

- Work under the direction and supervision of the teacher to whom assigned.
- Interpret for students utilizing the students preferred mode of communications.
- Provide interpreting during the school day in academic and non-academic settings.
- Confer with educators to plan for interpreting.
- Demonstrate and understand the educational process of interpreting by receiving training specific to job needs
- To assist students who are deaf or hard of hearing and perform other related duties which benefit the students.
- Demonstrate professionalism in all interactions with individuals unfamiliar with the educational setting.
- Attend student's IEP Team meeting in order to provide information about the student's communication abilities and needs.
- Serve as a member of the educational team to provide direct support to students with deafblindness as indicated in the students' Individualized Educational Plan
- Work effectively in close physical proximity to students who are primarily visual and tactile learners.
- Become proficient in the assigned student's communication methods and strategies.
- Assist staff in teaching academics, daily living and social skills
- Accompany and support the student during community-based instruction.
- Create activities and experiences to complement instructional program and IEP goals

QUALIFICATIONS:

- Applicant must have a high school diploma or general education development (GED) certificate and be learning sign language through a variety of methods such as online coursework, community sign language classes, videos.
- The Sign Support Specialist should be receiving training in hearing loss and other conditions and their effect on early development of language. A Sign Support Specialist should be receiving training in speech, motor, adaptive skills and social-emotional development of the student who is deaf or hard of hearing.
- Applicant must be willing to participate and complete ongoing, approved training in the area of deafblindness. Support for the training may be provided by WV SenseAbilities Project. The intervener must be knowledgeable in a variety of techniques to be used to support a student with combined vision and hearing losses to make progress in the general curriculum as much as possible.

PRINCIPLE ACCOUNTABILITY:

- Sign Support Specialists shall accept the same responsibility and authority as other members of the educational staff. They will abide by and enforce federal, state, school district, and individual school laws and rules.
- Sign Support Specialists shall provide communication access in the wide range of instructional activities within the educational program.