

Educational Service Unit 8

Special Education Teacher Job Description

It is the policy of Educational Service Unit 8 to not discriminate on the basis of sex, disability, race, color, religion, marital status, veteran status, or national or ethnic origin in its educational programs, admission policies, employment policies or other administered programs. Persons requiring accommodations to apply and/or be considered for positions are asked to make their request to the Administrator.

- A. Job Title:** Special Education Teacher
- B. Department:** Special Education
- C. Education Level and Certification:** Bachelors degree required. Must possess at all times during employment a Nebraska Teaching Certificate with such endorsements as required by NDE Rule 10. An endorsement in Mild and Moderate Disabilities K-12 is required.
- D. Reports To:** Level III Principal
- E. Performance Responsibilities**
 - 1. Teach assigned classes and perform related duties as set forth under Job Tasks.
 - 2. Provide for the reasonable care and safety of students under the teacher's supervision.
 - 3. Supervise students in out-of-classroom activities as assigned.
 - 4. Provide care for students, including reporting suspected child abuse or neglect to supervisor and provide medication administration as assigned.
 - 5. Participate in team meetings for the development of IEPs, IFSPs, and 504 Plans and implement provisions of IEPs, IFSPs, and 504 Plan accommodations for the teacher's students.
 - 6. Participate in professional activities and staff development as assigned and as needed to maintain professional competence and to perform duties.
 - 7. Develop and maintain a positive rapport with students and parents.
 - 8. Develop and maintain a positive and professional working relationship with other staff and administration.
 - 9. Maintain confidentiality of information concerning colleagues, students, and parents in accordance with law and ESU 8 rules.
 - 10. Provide for proper care, maintenance and reasonable security of all ESU 8 property in the teacher's custody.
 - 11. Utilize instructional materials and other resources in a competent and effective manner, including computer, e-mail, electronic student information systems, and other technology to perform assigned duties.
 - 12. Adhere to all ESU 8 policies, rules, regulations, and supervisor directives.
 - 13. Adhere to the code of ethics of the ESU 8 and the code of ethics set forth in NDE Rule 27. The teacher must serve as a positive role model for other staff and students.
 - 14. Perform other tasks as assigned.

F. Job Tasks

1. Establish and enforce rules for behavior and procedures for maintaining order among the students for whom they are responsible.
2. Observe and evaluate students' performance, behavior, social development, and physical health.
3. Establish clear objectives for all lessons, units, and projects, and communicate those objectives to students.
4. Prepare materials and classrooms for class activities.
5. Adapt teaching methods and instructional materials to meet students' varying needs and interests.
6. Confer with other staff members to plan and schedule lessons promoting learning.
7. Assign and grade class work and homework.
8. Confer with parents or guardians, teachers, counselors, and administrators in order to resolve students' behavioral and academic problems.
9. Meet with parents and guardians to discuss their children's progress and to determine priorities for their children and their resource needs.
10. Maintain accurate and complete student records as required by laws, ESU 8 policies, and administrative regulations.
11. Provide a variety of materials and resources for children to explore, manipulate, and use, both in learning activities and in imaginative play.
12. Meet with other professionals to discuss individual students' needs and progress.
13. Use computers, audio-visual aids, and other equipment and materials to supplement presentations.
14. Prepare reports on students and activities as required by administration.
15. Instruct and monitor students in the use and care of equipment and materials to prevent injuries and damage.
16. Attend professional meetings, educational conferences, and teacher training workshops to maintain and improve professional competence.
17. Attend staff meetings and serve on committees, as required.
18. Select, store, order, issue, and inventory classroom equipment, materials, and supplies.

G. Required Knowledge

The Special Education Teacher is to possess and effectively utilize knowledge in the following areas:

1. English Language—Knowledge of the structure and content of the English language including the meaning and spelling of words, rules of composition, and grammar.
2. Education and Training—Knowledge of principles and methods for curriculum and training design, teaching and instruction for individuals and groups, and the measurement of training effects.
3. Mathematics—Knowledge of arithmetic, algebra, geometry, calculus, statistics, and their applications.
4. Psychology—Knowledge of human behavior and performance; individual differences in ability, personality, and interests; learning and motivation;

- psychological research methods; and the assessment and treatment of behavioral and affective disorders.
5. Geography—Knowledge of principles and methods for describing the features of land, sea, and air masses, including their physical characteristics, locations, interrelationships, and distribution of plant, animal, and human life
 6. History and Archeology—Knowledge of historical events and their causes, indicators, and effects on civilizations and cultures.
 7. Computers and Electronics—Knowledge of circuit boards, processors, chips, electronic equipment, and computer hardware and software, including applications and programming.
 8. Customer and Personal Service—Knowledge of principles and processes for providing customer and personal services.
 9. Public Safety and Security—Knowledge of relevant equipment, policies, procedures, and strategies to promote effective local, state, or national security operations for the protection of people, data, property, and institutions.
 10. Clerical—Knowledge of administrative and clerical procedures and systems such as word processing, managing files and records, stenography and transcription, designing forms, and other office procedures and terminology.
 11. Sociology and Anthropology—Knowledge of group behavior and dynamics, societal trends and influences, human migrations, ethnicity, cultures and their history and origins.

H. Required Skills and Abilities

The Special Education Teacher is to possess and effectively utilize the following skills and abilities:

1. Communication:
 - a. Active Listening—Giving full attention to what other people are saying, taking time to understand the points being made, asking questions as appropriate, and not interrupting at inappropriate times.
 - b. Speaking—Talking to others to convey information effectively. The ability to speak clearly so others can understand you. The ability to communicate information and ideas in speaking so others will understand.
 - c. Oral Comprehension and Listening—The ability to listen to and understand information and ideas presented through spoken words and sentences. The ability to identify and understand the speech of another person.
 - d. Writing—Communicating effectively in writing as appropriate for the needs of the audience. The ability to communicate information and ideas in writing so others will understand.
 - e. Written Comprehension—Understanding written sentences and paragraphs in work related documents. The ability to read and understand information and ideas presented in writing. Understanding written sentences and paragraphs in work related documents.
2. Instructing—Teaching others how to do something.
3. Learning Strategies—Selecting and using training/instructional methods and procedures appropriate for the situation when learning or teaching new things.
4. Monitoring—Monitoring/Assessing performance of self, other individuals, or organizations to make improvements or take corrective action.

5. Time Management—Managing one’s own time and the time of others.
6. Active Learning—Understanding the implications of new information for both current and future problem-solving and decision-making.
7. Critical Thinking—Using logic and reasoning to identify the strengths and weaknesses of alternative solutions, conclusions or approaches to problems.
8. Social Perceptiveness—Being aware of others’ reactions and understanding why they react as they do.
9. Problem Sensitivity—The ability to tell when something is wrong or is likely to go wrong.
10. Reasoning—Deductive: The ability to apply general rules to specific problems to produce answers that make sense. Inductive: The ability to combine pieces of information to form general rules or conclusions (includes finding a relationship among seemingly unrelated events).
11. Fluency of Ideas—The ability to come up with a number of ideas about a topic.
12. Information Ordering—The ability to arrange things or actions in a certain order or pattern according to a specific rule or set of rules (e.g., patterns of numbers, letters, words, pictures, mathematical operations).
13. Originality—The ability to come up with unusual or clever ideas about a given topic or situation, or to develop creative ways to solve a problem.
14. Category Flexibility—The ability to generate or use different sets of rules for combining or grouping things in different ways.
15. Mathematics—Using mathematics to solve problems. The ability to choose the right mathematical methods or formulas to solve a problem. The ability to add, subtract, multiply, or divide quickly and correctly.
16. Service Orientation—Actively looking for ways to help people.
17. Coordination—Adjusting actions in relation to others’ actions.
18. Persuasion—Persuading others to change their minds or behavior.
19. Negotiation—Bringing others together and trying to reconcile differences.
20. Judgment and Decision Making—Considering the relative costs and benefits of potential actions to choose the most appropriate one.
21. Complex Problem Solving—Identifying complex problems and reviewing related information to develop and evaluate options and implement solutions.
22. Science—Using scientific rules and methods to solve problems.
23. Equipment Selection—Determining the kind of tools and equipment needed to do a job.
24. Vision—The ability to see details at close range (within a few feet of the observer) and to see details at a distance.
25. Selective Attention—The ability to concentrate on a task over a period of time without being distracted.
26. Flexibility of Closure—The ability to identify or detect a known pattern (a figure, object, word, or sound) that is hidden in other distracting material.

I. Work Activities

The Special Education Teacher is to perform the following work activities:

1. Training and Teaching Others—Identifying the educational needs of others, developing formal educational or training programs or classes, and teaching or instructing others. This includes: assessing educational potential or need of

- students, converting information into instructional program, developing course or training objectives, instructional materials and teaching aids, organizing educational material or ideas, preparing audio-visual teaching aids, selecting teaching materials to meet student needs, teaching correct eating habits, teaching students with disabilities, and using classroom management techniques.
2. Organizing, Planning, and Prioritizing Work—Developing specific goals and plans to prioritize, organize, and accomplish work. This includes organizing esteem building activities and social behavior learning activities.
 3. Establishing and Maintaining Interpersonal Relationships—Developing constructive and cooperative working relationships with others, and maintaining them over time. This includes establishing and maintaining relationships with students, parents, co-workers and administration.
 4. Getting Information—Observing, receiving, and otherwise obtaining information from all relevant sources.
 5. Communicating with Supervisors, Peers, or Subordinates—Providing information to supervisors, co-workers, and subordinates by telephone, in written form, e-mail, or in person.
 6. Thinking Creatively—Developing, designing, or creating new applications, ideas, relationships, systems, or products, including artistic contributions.
 7. Coaching and Developing Others—Identifying the developmental needs of others and coaching, mentoring, or otherwise helping others to improve their knowledge or skills. This includes: mentoring co-workers in school or educational setting.
 8. Developing Objectives and Strategies—Establishing long-range objectives and specifying the strategies and actions to achieve them. This includes writing grant proposals or assisting with grant proposals.
 9. Making Decisions and Solving Problems—Analyzing information and evaluating results to choose the best solution and solve problems.
 10. Updating and Using Relevant Knowledge—Keeping up-to-date technically and applying new knowledge to your job. This includes: using early childhood education techniques, interpersonal communication techniques, knowledge of multi-media technology, motivational techniques in education, oral or written communication techniques, public speaking techniques, special education techniques, and teaching techniques.
 11. Documenting/Recording Information—Entering, transcribing, recording, storing, or maintaining information in written or electronic form. This includes recording student progress.
 12. Assisting and Caring for Others—Providing personal assistance, medical attention, emotional support, or other personal care to others such as coworkers, customers, or patients. This includes: empathizing with others during counseling or related services and working with students with disabilities or illnesses.
 13. Evaluating Information to Determine Compliance with Standards—Using relevant information and individual judgment to determine whether events or processes comply with laws, regulations, or standards. This includes: ensuring correct grammar, punctuation, and spelling.
 14. Resolving Conflicts and Negotiating with Others—Handling complaints, settling disputes, and resolving grievances and conflicts, or otherwise negotiating with others. This includes: resolving behavioral and academic problems.
 15. Developing and Building Teams—Encouraging and building mutual trust, respect, and cooperation among team members.

16. Identifying Objects, Actions, and Events—Identifying information by categorizing, estimating, recognizing differences or similarities, and detecting changes in circumstances or events. This includes: recognizing physical or emotional abuse, student learning levels, and student problems.
17. Monitoring Processes, Materials, or Surroundings—Monitoring and reviewing information from materials, events, or the environment, to detect or assess problems.
18. Processing Information—Compiling, coding, categorizing, calculating, tabulating, auditing, or verifying information or data.
19. Coordinating the Work and Activities of Others—Getting members of a group to work together to accomplish tasks. This includes: directing and coordinating activities of other staff and volunteers.
20. Interpreting the Meaning of Information for Others—Translating or explaining what information means and how it can be used. This includes: interpreting ability or achievement test results.
21. Scheduling Work and Activities—Scheduling events, programs, and activities, as well as the work of others. This includes: scheduling student field trips.
22. Judging the Qualities of Things, Services, or People—Assessing the value, importance, or quality of things or people.
23. Interacting With Computers—Using computers and computer systems (including hardware and software) to program, write software, set up functions, enter data, or process information. This includes: using computers to enter, access or retrieve educational data.
24. Performing for or Working Directly with the Public—Performing for people or dealing directly with the public.
25. Analyzing Data or Information—Identifying the underlying principles, reasons, or facts of information by breaking down information or data into separate parts.
26. Communicating with Persons Outside Organization—Communicating with people outside the organization, representing the organization to customers, the public, government, and other external sources. This information can be exchanged in person, in writing, or by telephone or e-mail. This includes: communicating student progress, communicating visually or verbally, conducting parent conferences, and making education presentations.
27. Performing Administrative Activities—Performing day-to-day administrative tasks such as maintaining information files and processing paperwork. This includes: maintaining educational records, reports, or files and preparing educational reports.
28. Guiding, Directing, and Motivating Subordinates—Providing guidance and direction to subordinates, including setting performance standards and monitoring performance. This includes: evaluating student performance, maintaining group discipline in an educational setting, and monitoring student progress.

J. Required Employee Characteristics

The Special Education Teacher is to possess and exhibit the following characteristics:

1. Cooperation—Job requires being pleasant with others on the job and displaying a good-natured, cooperative attitude.

2. Attention to Detail—Job requires being careful about detail and thorough in completing work tasks.
3. Dependability—Job requires being reliable, responsible, and dependable, and fulfilling obligations.
4. Integrity—Job requires being honest and ethical.
5. Concern for Others—Job requires being sensitive to others' needs and feelings and being understanding and helpful on the job.
6. Self Control—Job requires maintaining composure, keeping emotions in check, controlling anger, and avoiding aggressive behavior, even in very difficult situations.
7. Stress Tolerance—Job requires accepting criticism and dealing calmly and effectively with high stress situations.
8. Adaptability/Flexibility—Job requires being open to change (positive or negative) and to considerable variety in the workplace.
9. Independence—Job requires developing one's own ways of doing things, guiding oneself with little or no supervision, and depending on oneself to get things done.
10. Initiative—Job requires a willingness to take on responsibilities and challenges.
11. Persistence—Job requires persistence in the face of obstacles.
12. Achievement/Effort—Job requires establishing and maintaining personally challenging achievement goals and exerting effort toward mastering tasks.
13. Leadership—Job requires a willingness to lead, take charge, and offer opinions and direction.
14. Social Orientation—Job requires preferring to work with others rather than alone, and being personally connected with others on the job.

K. Working Conditions

1. Inside offices and classrooms.
2. Outside for activities with students.

L. FLSA Status: Exempt.

Professional exemption: The employee has a primary duty of performing work requiring knowledge of an advanced type in a field of science or learning customarily acquired by a prolonged course of specialized intellectual instruction and study or has a primary duty of teaching, tutoring, instructing, or lecturing in the activity of imparting knowledge and is employed and engaged in this activity as a teacher.

M. Essential Functions: The essential functions of the Special Education Teacher position include: (1) regular, dependable attendance on the job; (2) the ability to perform the identified tasks and to possess and utilize the identified knowledge, skills, and abilities and to perform the identified work activities; and (3) the ability to perform the following identified physical requirements:

**Physical Requirements
Special Education Teacher**

E = Essential
NE = Non-Essential

	Item is not a requirement of the job NE	Occasional -- up to 33% of time NE	Occasional/Essential -- up to 33% of time, absolutely essential to the job E	Frequent -- between 34% - 66% E	Continuous -- over 66% of time E
Stamina					
1. Sitting				X	
2. Walking				X	
3. Standing			X		
4. Sprinting/Running	X				
Flexibility					
5. Bending or twisting at the neck more than the average person			X		
6. Bending or twisting at the trunk more than the average person			X		
7. Squatting/Stooping/Kneeling			X		
8. Reaching above the head		X			
9. Reaching forward		X			
10. Repeating the same hand, arm or finger motion many times (For example: typing, data entry, etc.)		X			
Activities					
11. Climbing (on ladders, into large trucks/vehicles, etc.)		X			
12. Hand/grip strength		X			
13. Driving on the job			X		
14. Typing non-stop		X			
Use of Arms and Hands					
15. Manual dexterity (using a wrench or screwing a lid on a jar)		X			
16. Finger dexterity (typing or putting a nut on a bolt)		X			
Lifting Requirements					
17. Lifting up to 10 pounds (Mark all that apply)					
Floor to waist			X		
Waist to shoulder			X		
Shoulder to overhead		X			
18. Lifting 11 to 25 pounds (Mark all that apply)					
Floor to waist			X		
Waist to shoulder			X		
Shoulder to overhead	X				
19. Lifting 26 to 50 pounds (Mark all that apply)					
Floor to waist		X			
Waist to shoulder		X			
Shoulder to overhead	X				
20. Lifting 51 to 75 pounds (Mark all that apply)					
Floor to waist	X				
Waist to shoulder	X				
Shoulder to overhead	X				
21. Lifting 76 plus pounds (Mark all that apply)					
Floor to waist	X				
Waist to shoulder	X				
Shoulder to overhead	X				
22. Can load/items weighing over 50 pounds that are lifted or carried be shared, or reduced into smaller loads?					
	X				
Pushing/Pulling					
23. 25 to 50 pounds			X		
24. 51 to 75 pounds		X			
25. 76 to 90 pounds	X				
26. Over 90 pounds	X				
Carrying					
27. 10 to 25 pounds			X		
28. 26 to 50 pounds		X			
29. 51 to 75 pounds	X				
30. 76 to 90 pounds	X				
31. Over 90 pounds	X				

Educational Service Unit 8

Special Education Teacher Job Description

Addendum

This is an Addendum to the general Teacher Job Description specific to this teacher position. The general Teacher Job Description also applies to this teaching position except to the extent the information set forth in this Addendum is directly contrary to the general Teacher Job Description.

A. Additional Education, Certification or Licensure Requirements:

Endorsement: Special Education Endorsement appropriate for the instructional responsibility assigned to the teacher (grade level and disability) as required by NDE Rules 24 and 51. Additional endorsements in core academic subject areas or HOUSSE approval as required by the teacher's assignment to be NCLB qualified.

B. Additional Performance Responsibilities and Job Tasks:

1. Maintain all pertinent NDE electronic documents including:
 - Maintaining current team member access
 - Maintaining current student and parent information
 - Finalizing all documents
 - Opening progress reports in timely fashion for related service providers.
2. Manage caseloads including:
 - Preparing, scheduling and conducting IEP's and MDT's on or before anniversary date
 - Managing monthly roster including insuring that:
 - i. Special education percentages accurately reflect services and are in compliance with what is stated on the IEP
 - ii. New IEP/MDT dates are recorded accurately
 - iii. Indicating all related services and other information
3. Provide services as directed in IEP.
4. Develop a working knowledge of students on case load as it pertains to providing special education services.
5. Document all parent interactions (phone calls, notes, etc.).
6. Supervise paraprofessionals.
7. Conduct formal and informal diagnostic observations and evaluations.
8. Communicate with district and outside agencies.
9. Attend regularly scheduled and other announced special education meetings.
10. Comply with NDE Rule 51 guidelines.

C. Additional or Different Physical Requirements:

1. #22 – Occasional - up to 33% of time.
2. Must be able to fulfill restraint training procedures.