

Job Category: 0636  
Excepted Qual Standard: 081  
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Director, BIE 6/29/06

**PHYSICAL THERAPY ASSISTANT  
CE/CY-0636**

CATEGORICAL PAY LEVEL:

Minimum Pay Level: 03  
Maximum Pay Level: 04

DESCRIPTION OF WORK:

Physical therapy assistants perform physical therapy services under the supervision and guidance of a professional physical therapist as defined by the Physical Therapy Licensure Board of the State wherein they practice. They provide services that help improve mobility, relieve pain, and prevent or limit permanent physical disabilities of individuals suffering from injuries or disease. Clients are students at the schools. The assistant implements and, within certain restrictions, modifies treatment plans developed by a physical therapist. Treatment generally focuses on neuromuscular and muscular-skeletal issues such as balance, gait, coordination, range of motion and strength as they impact a child's ability to participate in and/or benefit from the educational experience. Treatment may include, but is not limited to, therapeutic exercise, massage, physical agents such as hydrotherapy, ultrasound and heat, as well as guided movement gait training and activities for balance and gross motor coordination. Physical therapy techniques are applied to restore function, prevent disability, relieve pain and speed recovery following disease, injury, surgery or loss of limb. The physical therapy assistant provides treatment and aids the physical therapist in assessing the student's progress toward meeting the identified goals. Assistants keep daily records which are reviewed monthly by the supervisory physical therapist. They are responsible for keeping treatment areas clean and organized and for preparing for each student's therapy.

LEVEL OF RESPONSIBILITY:

The physical therapy assistant functions as part of the multidisciplinary team. Physical therapy assistants contribute to development of treatment planning, by providing information and observations based on patient's responses to treatment.

Level 03 – Physical Therapy Assistant: Level 03 is the entrance level for physical therapy assistants, and works under the close supervision of a physical therapist, carrying out prescribed treatment plan involving standard procedures to achieve beneficial results. The physical therapist assigns patients for treatment, indicates the treatment objectives, and provides technical interpretation of treatment plan. Work is reviewed for use of prescribed treatment techniques, adherence to the treatment plan, and adequacy and correctness of information in reports.

Level 04 – Physical Therapy Assistant: Level 04 assistant works under the general supervision of a physical therapist, carrying out prescribed treatment plans, and has authority to make changes in procedures and approaches to enable the patient to overcome his disabilities and continue the treatment. They recognize the relationships between patient's disabilities and the effects of treatment, and in assessing accurately both positive and negative responses to treatment. Work is evaluated for meeting objectives of treatment plan, in motivating patients, and in achieving results.

POSITION TITLE:

Official title is *Physical Therapy Assistant*.

BASIC EXPERIENCE AND EDUCATION REQUIREMENTS:

PAY LEVEL	EDUCATION	EXPERIENCE (YEARS)
03 Physical Therapy Assistant	Successful completion of a physical therapy assistant program with Certification	None
04 Physical Therapy Assistant	Successful completion of a 2-year Associate Degree in physical therapy assistant program with Certification or License Or Bachelor's Degree with Certification or License	None

An applicant must have successfully completed an accredited physical therapy assistant curriculum recognized by a legally designated accrediting agency, which was in good standing at the time the program was completed, receiving either a Certificate or Degree documenting completion of the curriculum. All clinical practicum requirements of the institution and accrediting organization, must have been successfully completed.

All physical therapy assistants must meet the certification or licensure standards for the position in the State where the position is located. Emergency and provisional certificates may be accepted under the conditions they are issued by the proper State authority. No person appointed pending certification may be retained beyond 6 months, or promoted, if certification has not been attained.

CONDITION OF EMPLOYMENT:

If the position requires operation of a motor vehicle in performance of work, a valid State Driver's license is a prerequisite. Some positions involve work transporting students or conducting other assigned work throughout the geographic jurisdiction of the Education Line Office. A valid State Driver's license must be maintained as a condition of employment; failure to do so may result in removal from the position.

An initial physical examination is required. Failure to maintain physical condition to perform the job required may result in removal from the position.

PHYSICAL REQUIREMENTS:

Employee must be able to lift at least 50 pounds with appropriate body mechanics.

Good distant vision in one eye and ability to read without strain printed material the size of typewritten characters are required, glasses permitted. Ability to hear the conversational voice, with or without a hearing aid, is required. In addition, applicants must have mental and emotional stability. In most instances an amputation of arm, hand leg or foot will not disqualify an applicant, although it may be necessary that this condition be compensated by use of satisfactory prostheses.

The position requires a high degree of physical activity associated with the work, field travel, and to attendance at meetings and conferences from the duty station.