**Teacher for the Blind & Visually Impaired**

**Qualifications:**

* A bachelor's degree from a college or university.
* Preferred or willing to attain within 3ys of employment a MN license for Teacher for Blind and Visually Impaired.
* The ability to travel between sites.

**Job Summary:**

The itinerant teacher for students with visual impairments travels to the students' assigned schools to provide direct and/or indirect special education services relating to vision loss. These services enable the students to learn in a variety of settings. Services for infants may be provided in the infants' homes or child care settings. The students range in age from birth through 21 and may have only a visual impairment or additional disabilities. The cognitive levels of the students range from severely impaired to gifted and talented.

**Major Responsibilities and Duties:**

**Assessment and Evaluation**

1. Perform functional vision and learning media assessments on new referrals and three-year re-evaluations
2. Interpret eye medical reports as they relate to educational environments
3. Contribute to the development of the IEP/IFSP with goals, modifications, learning styles.
4. Recommend appropriate specialized evaluations as needed, such as low vision, orientation and mobility, psycho-social, and adaptive physical education
5. Consult with diagnosticians, classroom teachers, students, and parents concerning appropriate evaluations, modification, and test administration
6. Obtain modified standardized testing materials and administer or assist in the administration of the test as needed
7. Work as liaison with other agencies in the vocational assessment process

**Appropriate Learning Environment**

1. Assist in determining and procuring classroom equipment and materials necessary for the student with visual impairments to learn (brailler, low vision devices, assistive technology, computer) including ensuring necessary room modifications and lighting changes
2. Provide the classroom teacher with information regarding the specialized strategies needed to teach a VI student
3. Consult, collaborate, or coach other instructional staff to provide information to incorporate the expanded core curriculum into the entire instructional setting
4. Provide braille, recorded/enlarged materials, and tactual symbols as appropriate for each child.

**Direct Instruction in the Unique Curriculum**

1. Monitoring student progress in academic subjects and provide instruction in compensatory skills as needed in the areas the students may have difficulty with as a result of the visual impairment (This does not include tutoring in subject areas once materials and methods have been modified to accommodate the vision loss)
2. Braille reading and writing
3. Low vision devices
4. Abacus
5. Typing/keyboarding
6. Adaptive devices (e.g., computers, note takers, tape recorders)
7. Listening skills
8. Visual efficiency
9. Concept development (especially for infants and early childhood students)
10. Daily living/self-help skills
11. Career readiness
12. Leisure and recreation skills
13. Social skills
14. Organizational and study skills
15. Self-advocacy.

**Support Services**

1. Provide assistance to students with visual impairments in understanding their attitudes and those of others concerning their visual impairment
2. Facilitate social integration and interaction with peers
3. Provide training and support to parents of students with visual impairments to enhance their children's independence
4. Provide the teachers, staff, and family of students with visual impairment with information regarding their individual needs, methodology, and strategies
5. Participate with other school personnel and agencies to secure job-related experiences for students
6. Participate in transition planning.

**Administrative/Record Keeping Duties**

1. Provide updated pupil information (APH registration, deafblind census, textbook projections)
2. Submit requests for instructional materials, conferences, field trips, and personnel needs
3. Inform various special education and campus personnel of progress and needs of the students with visual impairment on a regular basis
4. Identify and set up a work and storage space at each school to be used by the VI teacher to instruct students as necessary
5. Provide input into students' schedules, planning for all special services, such as direct instruction and orientation and mobility
6. Communicate with low-vision specialists, ophthalmologists, and optometrists concerning exams, and attend exams when appropriate
7. Supervise material preparation and acquisition.

**Professional Standards**

1. Acquire information about current research, development, and technology by attending conferences, workshops, and area meetings and by reading journals in the field of visual impairment.

**Evaluation:**

Performance on the job will be evaluated by a supervisor.

*Please send resume, letter of application, verification of teaching license and 3 references to: Zumbro Education District, Attn: Director, 801 Frontage Rd NW, Byron, MN 55920.*