

## **BERKS COUNTY INTERMEDIATE UNIT**

### **POSITION TITLE: Orientation and Mobility (O&M) Specialist**

#### **QUALIFICATIONS:**

- A. Bachelor's and/or Master's degree from an approved college or university.
- B. Orientation and Mobility Specialist credential issued by the Academy for Certification of Vision Rehabilitation and Education Professionals (ACVREP) or the National Orientation and Mobility Certification (NOMC) issued by the National Blindness Professional Certification Board (NBPCB).
- C. Pennsylvania certification for teachers of students with visual impairments preferred.
- D. Experience working with students with various levels of disabilities in pre-school, school-age, and/or transition to adult life programs.
- E. Ability to perform the following physical activities: stoop, run, sit, stand, walk, bend, lift children, carry thirty (30) pounds, be outside in all seasons, be inside, prepare food, hear within normal ranges, and see within normal ranges.
- F. Experience with children with multiple impairments preferred.
- G. Valid Pennsylvania Driver's License.
- H. Access to a vehicle with proof of liability insurance.
- I. Ability to travel between sites.
- J. The holder of this position could be required as part of his or her duties to engage in activities that can be charged to a Medical Assistance (MA) or other state or federal healthcare program. Clearance as a provider by both the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and the federal government is therefore an essential qualification for this position.

**REPORTS TO:** Program Administrator or Assistant Program Administrator

#### **POSITION GOAL:**

To assist students with visual impairments to achieve maximum independence through instruction in safe, efficient travel within the home, school, and community. Services also include instruction in compensatory skills including daily living skills, self-advocacy, and recreation or leisure skills as related to orientation and mobility.

#### **PERFORMANCE RESPONSIBILITIES:**

The essential functions of this position include, but are not limited to, the following fundamental duties:

##### **Assessment and Evaluation:**

- A. Perform orientation and mobility evaluations that focus on long- and short-term needs of the student on new referrals and on multi-year re-evaluations.
- B. Include in the assessment report the needs and strengths of the student and an estimate of the length and frequency of service necessary to meet identified needs.
- C. Contribute to other appropriate portions of the IEP, such as goals and recommendations.
- D. Provide consultation and support services to parents, regular and special education teachers, other school personnel, and students' sighted peers.
- E. Confer regularly with parents, classroom teachers, physical education teachers, physical therapists, and other school personnel to assist in home and classroom modifications to

ensure reinforcement of appropriate O&M skills that will encourage the visually impaired student to travel independently in these settings.

- F. Work with the teacher of visually impaired students to conduct the functional vision assessment as it relates to independent travel. Evaluate the student's progress on an ongoing basis and keep progress notes on each student.

**Appropriate Learning Environments:**

- A. Instruct students with visual impairments in skills and knowledge that enable them to travel independently based on the IEP.
- B. Teach visually impaired students to travel with proficiency, safety, and confidence in familiar and unfamiliar environments.
- C. Prepare sequential and meaningful instruction geared to the students' assessed needs, IEP goals and objectives, functioning level, and motivation level.
- D. Be responsible for the student's safety during O&M instruction and in other environments while fostering maximum independence during O&M lessons.
- E. Prepare and use equipment and materials such as tactile maps, models, distance low vision devices, adaptive mobility devices, and long canes for the development of O&M skills.
- F. Provide orientation of new school buildings and new class schedules to students with visual impairments as needed.

**Direct Instruction in the Unique Curriculum (as appropriate for student's developmental level):**

- A. Concept development
- B. Gross motor skills
- C. Visual efficiency skills (with and without low vision devices)
- D. Pre-cane skills
- E. Cane skills
- F. Map skills
- G. Outdoor
  - a. Residential
  - b. Semi-business
  - c. Business

**Support Services:**

- A. Provide assistance to the students with visual impairments in understanding their attitudes and those of others concerning their visual impairments.
- B. Emphasize social integration with peers and provide opportunities for interaction.
- C. Provide itinerant/community support when O&M caseloads allow for flexibility and accommodation within the School-age or Early Intervention Programs.

**Administrative/Record Keeping Duties:**

- A. Submit requests for instructional materials, conferences, and reference materials.
- B. Be knowledgeable of community-based resources that may be available to the Visually Impaired (VI) student.

- C. Provide in-service training to regular and special education personnel, administrative personnel, sighted peers, and parents concerning the O&M needs of the student and appropriate methods for interacting with the VI student so as to foster maximum independence and safety.
- D. Participate in parent conferences and meetings as well as teacher staffing regarding the VI student.
- E. Maintain adequate records on all assessments, IEPs, and progress reports.
- F. Provide progress reports to parents.
- G. Arrange and prepare paperwork as appropriate and attend IEP meetings for students with visual impairments as they relate to O&M.
- H. Communicate with specialists in low vision, ophthalmologists, and optometrists concerning exams, and attend exams when appropriate.

**Liaison Between Community and School:**

- A. Provide information about vision and O&M services to the schools and community.
- B. When appropriate, transport students to fulfill curriculum requirements and to meet student, program, and district needs.

**Professional Standards:**

- A. Maintain a reference library of current professional materials.
- B. Acquire information about current research, development, and technology by attending conferences and workshops and by reading journals in the field of visual impairment.

**TERM OF EMPLOYMENT:**

As per the BCIUEA Collective Bargaining Agreement.

**EVALUATION:**

Performance in this position will be evaluated in accordance with the provisions of the Board's policy on evaluation of professional personnel.

*The position holder must be able to perform the essential job functions with or without reasonable accommodations. It is the responsibility of the employee to inform the BCIU Director of Human Resources of any and all reasonable accommodations that will be required.*

**BCIU is an equal opportunity employment, educational, and service organization.**

<b>Print Name</b>	
<b>Employee Signature</b>	<b>Date:</b>

Revised: January 29, 2018  
 July 7, 2025  
 July 10, 2025

CC: Employee File