

## [Orientation and Mobility Instructor, DC Public Schools](#)

### **Job description**

**To apply email Anna Chirighin, Manager of Low Incidence Disabilities at [anna.chirighin@k12.dc.gov](mailto:anna.chirighin@k12.dc.gov).**

**DC Public Schools needs an Orientation and Mobility Instructor to join the team for the 2024-2025 school year. Our students need your expertise, passion and leadership.**

DCPS serves more than 51,000 students in the nation's capital through the efforts of approximately 4,200 educators in 117 schools. As part of a comprehensive reform effort to become the preeminent urban school system in America, DCPS intends to have the highest-performing, best paid, most satisfied, and most honored educator force in the nation and a distinctive central office staff whose work supports and drives instructional excellence and significant achievement gains for DCPS students.

### **Position Overview**

The Office of Social Emotional Academic Development works with the Chancellor to ensure coherence in the educational experience for our students, families, and schools. Our goal is to initiate change and lead DC Public Schools into the highest performing school district in the nation. We are currently in the process of creating our next strategic plan. After engaging with over 3,000 internal and external stakeholders to help shape the future of DCPS, our draft strategic priorities include:

- **Promote Equity:** Define, understand, and promote equity to close achievement gaps and interrupt institutional bias.
- **Empower Our People:** Recruit, develop, and retain a talented, caring, and diverse team.
- **Educate the Whole Child:** Provide rigorous, joyful and inclusive academic and social emotional experiences for all students.
- **Ensure Excellent Schools:** Increase the number of high quality schools across the district by defining blended autonomies for schools and creating opportunities for innovation.
- **Engage Families:** Deepen partnerships with families and community.

The mission of the Office of Teaching and Learning (OTL) is to deliver high-quality instructional resources, enhance classroom practice and scale effective programs to increase DCPS student achievement and prepare all students for success in college, career, and life. OTL spans four core competency areas:

1. Curriculum;
2. Professional learning;
3. Enrichments and interventions; and

#### 4. Formative assessment.

Team members support school-based staff in implementing DCPS's existing academic programs while simultaneously working to rethink and redesign school programming, academic and curricular resources and educator professional development.

The Division of Specialized Instruction (DSI) works to provide a high quality continuum of services in an inclusive environment so every student with disabilities is prepared for success in college, career, and life.

The division works with schools to design, implement, and monitor programs and supports for students with disabilities.

The Itinerant Orientation and Mobility Instructor travels to the students' assigned schools and/or homes to provide direct and/or consultative services relating to the student's visual impairment. These services enable the student to travel safely, efficiently, and independently in his/her home, school, and community environments. The students range in age from 3 through 21 years and may or may not have additional disabilities. The cognitive levels of the students range from severely impaired to gifted and talented.

Community-based instruction is assumed and a critical component of the Orientation and Mobility (O&M) program. This position is a safety-sensitive position. As a result, throughout employment this position will be subject to the Employee Mandatory Drug and Alcohol Testing Policy.

The Itinerant Orientation and Mobility Instructor will report to the Manager, Low Incidence Disability.

#### **Essential Duties and Responsibilities**

The below statements are intended to describe the general nature and scope of work being performed by this position. This is not a complete listing of all responsibilities, duties, and/or skills required. Other duties may be assigned.

- Performs orientation and mobility evaluations that focus on long- and short-term needs of the student for new referrals and at intervals as designated by the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA).
- Identifies the needs and strengths of the student and an estimate of the length and frequency of service necessary to meet determined needs and include such information in the assessment report.
- Contributes to other appropriate portions of the IEP, such as goals and recommendations.
- Provides consultation and support services to parents, educators, other team members, and students' sighted peers.
- Confers 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 and in the future.

- Evaluates the student's progress on an ongoing basis and keep progress notes on each student.
- Instructs students with visual impairments in skills and knowledge that enable them to travel independently based on the IEP.
- Teaches students to travel with proficiency, safety, and confidence in familiar and unfamiliar environments.
- Prepares and use equipment and materials, such as tactile maps, models, distance low-vision aids, pre-canes, and long canes for the development of O&M skills.

### **Qualifications**

- Bachelor's degree.
- Master's degree in special education or related field preferred.
- Previous exposure to or experience in the education sector a plus.
- Must hold current credential as an Orientation and Mobility Specialist issued by Academy for Certification of Vision Rehabilitation and Education Professionals (ACVREP).
- Experience working with children and young adults with visual impairments to include blindness required.

### **Personal Qualities of Top Candidates**

- **Commitment to Equity:** Passionate about closing the achievement gap and ensuring that every child, regardless of background or circumstance, receives an excellent education.
- **Leadership:** Coaches, mentors, and challenges others to excel despite obstacles and challenging situations.
- **Focus on Data-Driven Results:** Relentlessly pursues the improvement of central office performance and school leadership, instruction, and operations, and is driven by a desire to produce quantifiable student achievement gains.
- **Innovative Problem-Solving:** Approaches work with a sense of possibility and sees challenges as opportunities for creative problem solving; takes initiative to explore issues and find potential innovative solutions.
- **Adaptability:** Excels in constantly changing environments and adapts flexibly in shifting projects or priorities to meet the needs of a dynamic transformation effort; comfortable with ambiguity and non-routine situations.

- Teamwork: Increases the effectiveness of surrounding teams through collaboration, constant learning and supporting others; sensitive to diversity in all its forms; respects and is committed to learning from others.
- Dependability: Does whatever it takes to consistently deliver with high quality under tight deadlines; successfully manages own projects through strong organization, detailed workplans, and balancing of multiple priorities.
- Communication and Customer Service Skills: Communicates clearly and compellingly with diverse stakeholders in both oral and written forms; anticipates and responds to customer needs in a high quality and courteous manner.

Job Type: Full-time

Pay: \$55,209.00 - \$108,262.00 per year

Benefits:

- 401(k)
- 401(k) matching
- Dental insurance
- Flexible spending account
- Health insurance
- Life insurance
- Paid time off
- Vision insurance

Schedule:

- 8 hour shift
- Monday to Friday

Work Location: In person