

CONTRA COSTA COUNTY OFFICE OF EDUCATION

CLASS TITLE: YOUTH DEVELOPMENT SERVICES SPECIALIST I

RANGE: 23

BASIC FUNCTION:

Under the direction of the Project Manager, Youth Development Services, perform a variety of specialized activities involved in providing eligible youth with career guidance, vocational assessment, academic counseling, training, education and placement services to enhance school and career awareness and transition.

DISTINGUISHING CHARACTERISTICS:

The Youth Development Services Specialist I is the entry-level classification in the series. Incumbents work under general supervision and provide eligible youth with a variety of vocational, academic and career preparation services. The Youth Development Services Specialist II is the experienced-level classification in the series. Incumbents work independently, assist the Project Manager, Youth Development Services with Program management, and serve as a lead over Youth Development Services Specialist I's.

REPRESENTATIVE DUTIES:

ESSENTIAL DUTIES:

Perform a variety of specialized activities involved in providing eligible youth with career guidance, vocational assessment, academic counseling, training, education and placement services to enhance school and career awareness and transition; monitor, evaluate and adjust activities to meet student needs.

Interview and assess students in the identification of needs, interests and abilities to determine appropriate academic and career goals and post-secondary placement; refer students to programs, potential employers, internships and other opportunities according to needs, interests and abilities.

Provide technical assistance to students regarding financial aid, employment opportunities, internships, forms, applications and career and academic skill development; respond to inquiries and provide technical information concerning related standards, requirements, techniques, practices and procedures.

Serve as a liaison between the County Office, school districts, students, employers and outside agencies regarding vocational services, opportunities and placement; respond to inquiries and provide information concerning related activities, policies, procedures and objectives.

Train and assist students in the development of short and long-term academic and career plans and vocational, job searching, resume and interview skills; assist students in establishing and pursuing goals; develop individual service strategies for students; identify and develop appropriate training sites for students.

Market vocational programs to employers; develop worksite agreements; collaborate and establish and maintain partnerships with employers, service providers and others to facilitate and enhance employment opportunities, internships, job shadowing and other youth development services for students.

Monitor and assess student progress and performance; keep supervisors current concerning student progress; assist student with identifying and utilizing vocational strengths; assure students are placed with appropriate employers; confer with employers concerning student performance and progress.

Distribute, collect and process student forms and applications required for vocational services; evaluate student information and determine eligibility; obtain supporting documents as needed; assist students with completing various employment forms and applications.

Compile information and prepare and maintain a variety of narrative and statistical records, reports and files related to students, employers and assigned activities; review and process student payroll documents as required.

Communicate with County Office personnel, students and various outside agencies to exchange information, coordinate activities and resolve issues or concerns.

Operate a variety of office equipment including a copier, fax machine, projector, computer and assigned software; drive a vehicle to conduct work.

Monitor budgets for student hours, wages and support services; assist in assuring expenditures do not exceed established limitations.

Arrange transportation and appropriate work clothing for students as needed.

Attend and participate in various meetings, conferences and in-services and special events; prepare and deliver oral presentations concerning employment and vocational services.

OTHER DUTIES:

Perform related duties as assigned.

KNOWLEDGE AND ABILITIES:

KNOWLEDGE OF:

General principles, practices and procedures of career and vocational education training programs.
Training and employment opportunities in the community.

Basic interviewing and advisement techniques including methods for evaluating occupational skills.
Labor market trends and characteristics.

Principles and techniques of vocational guidance and casework.

High school course work required for graduation and college admission.

Diverse academic, socioeconomic, cultural, disability and ethnic backgrounds of students.

Interpersonal skills using tact, patience and courtesy.

Operation of a computer and assigned software.
Oral and written communication skills.
Modern office practices, procedures and equipment.
Record-keeping and report preparation techniques.
Basic public relations techniques.

ABILITY TO:

Perform a variety of specialized activities involved in providing eligible youth with career guidance, vocational assessment, academic counseling, training, education and placement services to enhance school and career awareness and transition.
Assist students with developing vocational and job searching skills.
Serve as a liaison between the County Office, school districts, students, employers and outside agencies regarding vocational services, opportunities and placement.
Learn, interpret, apply and explain laws, rules, regulations, policies and procedures.
Learn policies and objectives of assigned programs and activities.
Provide technical assistance to students regarding financial aid, employment opportunities, internships, forms, applications and career and academic skill development.
Establish and maintain partnerships with employers, service providers and others to facilitate and enhance employment opportunities and other vocational services for students.
Identify and evaluate student interests, needs and abilities.
Refer students to potential employers according to needs, interests and abilities.
Operate standard office equipment including a computer and assigned software.
Meet schedules and time lines.
Maintain records and prepare reports.
Communicate effectively both orally and in writing.
Establish and maintain cooperative and effective working relationships with others.

EDUCATION AND EXPERIENCE:

Any combination equivalent to: bachelor's degree in business administration, education, psychology or related field and two years experience working with individuals in a vocational or instructional environment.

LICENSES AND OTHER REQUIREMENTS:

Valid California driver's license.

WORKING CONDITIONS:

ENVIRONMENT:

Indoor work environment.

Driving a vehicle to conduct work.

PHYSICAL DEMANDS:

Dexterity of hands and fingers to operate a computer keyboard.

Hearing and speaking to exchange information.

Seeing to read a variety of materials.

Sitting or standing for extended periods of time.

Bending at the waist kneeling or crouching.