



Job Description - Director of Special Education/Exceptional Children

The Franklin School of Innovation (FSI) is a rigorous, college-preparatory, interdisciplinary, public charter middle and high school in Asheville, N.C. that uses the EL Education (formerly Expeditionary Learning) model to prepare students in grades 5 -12 to create their own futures. The school opened in August, 2014, serving grades 6 – 9. The school has expanded each year, and graduated its first class of seniors in June 2018. The school intends to provide in-person learning for the 2021-2022 school year.

The FSI Mission

The Franklin School of Innovation is preparing the next generation of leaders, capable of solving problems and participating effectively and ethically as local and global citizens. Through challenging academics, real-world learning, and community engagement, our students discover their potential, develop persistence and recognize the value of others. Our graduates are ready for the future they will create.

Core Elements of our Educational Model

- *Learning Expeditions:* Expeditions are long-term, teacher-designed studies, often multi-disciplinary, that involve students in original research, critical thinking and problem solving. They incorporate fieldwork or service learning and culminate in student products of value to an external audience.
- *Crew:* Crew is an integral component of EL Education schools, in which small groups of students meet with an adult advisor several times a week to explicitly work on team building, relationships, our Habits of Scholarship, and prepare for Personal Learning Plans and portfolios.
- *8th & 10th Grade Passage Portfolios:* All students develop individual portfolios to demonstrate mastery of academic standards as well as development of habits of scholarship and self-reflection. At 8th and 10th grades, these portfolios are used to showcase students' readiness to move forward to the next level of education.
- *Service Learning:* Integrated into our academic program to enrich learning, provide real-world applications, and build students' understanding of themselves as local and global citizens.

Position Overview

The Director of Exceptional Children (EC) Services supports the academic needs of students with learning exceptionalities and differences, and executes a broad range of activities and programs that support student success and goal attainment. The EC Director is accountable to and receives direction from the Executive Director and works in partnership with the school principals and leadership team.

The EC Director provides leadership and support to the Exceptional Children Department and 504 Plan Coordinators.

Exceptional Children's / Special Education services at Franklin are provided in an inclusive model, with support services delivered in the least-restrictive environment.

Responsibilities

- Effectively lead the Exceptional Children and Special Services department, providing supervision, support, and evaluation of program faculty and staff.
- Monitor procedures and operation of the Exceptional Children program and ensure compliance with IDEA; maintain compliance with federal and state special education regulations.
- Provide leadership on school initiatives and committees including MTSS implementation, crisis prevention, school discipline policies and procedures, school culture, and equity initiatives.
- Provide leadership for school implementation of Section 504 Plans.
- Build relationships with families and students that are positive, respectful, and welcoming through written and verbal communications.
- Secure and monitor contract personnel as needed for the provision of
 - Psychological services
 - Speech Therapy services to include audiology services
 - Occupational Therapy services
 - Physical Therapy services
 - Visual Impaired services
 - Hearing Impaired services
- Mediate conflicts between EC and 504 Plan students, faculty, and parents with respect and fairness.
- Plan and/or provide professional development student EC topics including identification of students with disabilities, provision of accommodations and modifications, and confidentiality protections.

- Plan, organize, and implement Extended School Year, Occupational Course of Study, and other programs as required to meet student needs
- Complete all state reporting for programs under the Exceptional Children Department.
- Advocate effectively for the needs of all students.
- Other responsibilities as assigned by the Executive Director.

Qualifications

- Commitment to Franklin's mission and educational model;
- BA/BS degree in education, Masters degree preferred in related field;
- North Carolina Exceptional Children Teaching certificate
- EC Certified with certification in at least one area of disability.
- Five years of teaching and/or supervision in the field of special education;
- Working knowledge of NC DPI Exceptional Children regulations, including an understanding of the federal, state, and local mandates governing the determination and delivery of special education services;
- Demonstrated organizational skills;
- Record of a highly successful teaching, student teaching, or residency experience;
- Demonstrated ability to work effectively as a team member;
- Demonstrated ability to evaluate tests and measurements of achievement;
- Demonstrated ability to use data to measure and direct planning;
- Must be able to use an assortment of equipment and classroom tools, such as CECAS program, Powerschool, Canvas, Google, and assistive technology.
- Commitment to pursuing professional development workshops, trainings, and seminars to increase knowledge of subject and training of other staff on new research, techniques, and methodologies.

Compensation and Development

- Salary Target: Competitive
- Retirement through private 401k benefits program with employer match
- Medical benefits through NC State Health Plan
- Ongoing Professional Development with EL Education including one-on-one technical assistance from EL staff, regional and national training institutes.

Application Process

Please email application packet to jobs@thefsi.us. No faxed applications, please. Complete application packets include: Cover letter, résumé/curriculum vitae, copy of credentials, references, and (optional) any additional documentation such as letters of reference.

**Applications will be reviewed as received.
All applications will be treated as confidential.**