



Parents and Schools in Partnership Program Down Syndrome Specialist Job Description

The DSG is asking each school district to appoint a Down Syndrome Specialist. DSG representatives will work through the Special Education Director of the school district to make this happen.

The Down Syndrome Specialist we hope would be:

- Vitally interested in the education of students and adults with Down syndrome.
- Employed by the school district on a long term basis.
- Available to attend conferences and lectures provided by the Down Syndrome Guild. We anticipate 2-3 conferences/lectures a year.
- Willing to disseminate information to teachers currently teaching students with Down syndrome.
- Willing to act as a resource person for teachers currently teaching students with Down syndrome.
- Available to assist as an interventionist when needed. Our vision is to have someone who can offer advice when an IEP team is at an impasse or needs ideas. The unique blend of being a school district employee as well as someone who has firsthand knowledge of information being offered to parents by the Guild, would allow the specialist to bring IEP teams together in the best interest of the child. Parents would know this person has the support of the Guild. School staffs would know this person is an employee of the district.
- Be a contact person for the Guild when important information regarding students with Down syndrome becomes available.

Each year students with Down syndrome encounter regular education teachers that have not had the opportunity to receive training in teaching methods which have been successful for students with Down syndrome. The Down Syndrome Guild wants to make this information available to teachers through both **our conferences** and the **Down Syndrome Specialist** within the teacher's school district.

Because our conference topics and training change from year to year, we feel a specialist would be able to share with teachers' specific information that may have been previously presented. We also feel that a specialist might be able to recognize patterns of behavior and/or learning challenges that are common to students with Down syndrome and therefore be able to suggest appropriate interventions.

As the horizon changes for students with Down syndrome in regular education, the school district would always be up to date through their resource - the Down Syndrome Specialist.

In consideration of the school district appointing a specialist, the Down Syndrome Guild will offer all of our training and conferences at no cost to the specialist from each school district.