



UTOPIAN
ACADEMY FOR THE ARTS

TALENT & RECRUITMENT DEPARTMENT

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JOB TITLE: DES Teacher

Job Code	Certification Type	Subject Type	Contract Days
171	798	928	190

About Utopian Academy for the Arts School

Utopian Academy for the Arts is the 2023 Georgia Charter School of the Year! The mission of Utopian Academy for the Arts is to develop, through a structured and supportive environment, academic and artistic students to enter and to succeed in the global society with proficiency to enroll in a college, university, or specialty school of their choice. Utopian Academy for the Arts is the only public charter school network in Georgia to offer a comprehensive educational program in the dramatic, media, and creative arts. Our educational model leverages the positive effects of arts education to engage and inspire students, develop their academic and artistic potential, and prepare them to be leaders in their communities. The Utopian Academy for the Arts was founded in 2013 as the first state-approved charter school by the State Charter Schools Commission of Georgia, to expand public school choice options for families that reside in Clayton County, GA. Recognizing its unique approach and access to arts-based education, the Clayton County Public Schools System subsequently approved the vertical expansion to add the Utopian Academy for the Arts Elementary (est. 2020) and Utopian Academy for the Arts High School (est. 2022). In 2023, the charter school network launched its second state-approved middle school, Utopian Academy for the Arts-Trilith, which features a state-wide attendance zone in Fayette County, GA.

The Role

Our greatest instructional strategy is our human capital. More than any other variable in education--more than curriculum or supplies—our faculty and staff matter. Effective teachers who are continually learning and setting high expectations are the key to student academic achievement and success. At Utopian Academy for the Arts School, we believe that students will rise to meet the high expectations set by our team of educators.

Job Overview: We are seeking a compassionate and skilled Developmental and Exceptionalities Services (DES) Teacher to join our charter school team. The DES Teacher will be responsible for providing specialized instruction and support to students with developmental disabilities, learning

differences, or other exceptionalities, ensuring access to a quality education and promoting academic and social-emotional growth. The ideal candidate will possess strong instructional skills, knowledge of special education best practices, and a commitment to meeting the diverse needs of students.

Key Role Responsibilities:

- Develop, implement, and monitor Individualized Education Plans (IEPs) for students with disabilities, in collaboration with special education team members, parents, and other stakeholders.
- Provide direct instruction to students with disabilities in academic subjects, social skills, life skills, and functional academics, adapting curriculum and materials to meet individual student needs.
- Differentiate instruction to accommodate diverse learning styles, abilities, and needs of students with disabilities, providing scaffolding, accommodations, and modifications as needed to support learning.
- Assess student learning and progress using a variety of formal and informal assessments, including observation, portfolio assessment, and progress monitoring tools, and use data to inform instructional decisions and interventions.
- Implement behavior management strategies and interventions to support students with disabilities in developing self-regulation skills, managing emotions, and making positive behavioral choices.
- Collaborate with general education teachers, support staff, and related service providers to ensure coordinated services and supports for students with disabilities, including accommodations, modifications, and assistive technology.
- Communicate regularly with parents and guardians regarding student progress, goals, and interventions, providing updates on IEP progress, behavior, and academic achievement.
- Participate in ongoing professional development and training opportunities related to special education best practices, evidence-based interventions, and strategies for supporting students with disabilities.
- Support inclusive practices and opportunities for students with disabilities to participate in general education classrooms and activities, collaborating with general education teachers to provide appropriate supports and accommodations.
- Ensure compliance with state and federal regulations related to special education, including the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act, and state-specific special education laws and regulations.

Qualifications:

- Bachelor's degree in Special Education, Education, or related field; Master's degree preferred.

- State teaching certification or licensure in Special Education (K-12) or Exceptional Student Education (ESE).
- Previous experience teaching students with disabilities, preferably in a charter school or similar setting.
- Strong knowledge of special education laws, regulations, and best practices for supporting students with disabilities.
- Ability to develop and implement Individualized Education Plans (IEPs) and provide specialized instruction to students with diverse needs and abilities.
- Excellent communication, interpersonal, and collaboration skills, with the ability to work effectively with students, parents, colleagues, and outside agencies.
- Patience, empathy, and a positive attitude, with a genuine desire to support the academic and social-emotional growth of students with disabilities.
- Knowledge of evidence-based instructional strategies, behavior management techniques, and assistive technology tools for students with disabilities.
- Flexibility and adaptability to meet the changing needs and demands of students with disabilities, while maintaining high expectations for achievement and success.
- Commitment to equity, diversity, and inclusion, with the ability to create a supportive and inclusive learning environment for all students.