



The Down Syndrome Guild of Kansas City launched the innovative Down Syndrome Specialist Program in 2005 and has grown by leaps and bounds in the last year. We are proud to report that 40 school districts in Kansas and Missouri currently have active specialists. Our specialists hold a wide range of full-time positions within their districts such as diagnosticians, nurses, principals, paraprofessionals, coordinators, or special education teachers.

We are reaching out to your school district in hopes that you will be the next district to join this dynamic program and select a representative to participate as a Down Syndrome Specialist.

What is the Specialist Program:

- Specialist attends quarterly breakfasts to share needs within the district, and receive free resources, regular updates on research, best practices and events related to Down syndrome.
- Specialist receives free registration to ANY DSG sponsored educational conference.
- Specialists receive no payment from the DSG or their district to be a specialist.
- Specialists help build collaborative relationships between DSG, parents & school districts to ensure positive outcomes for students with Down syndrome.
- Specialists are available to consult with their district educators and parents of students with Down syndrome and may attend IEP meetings or consult if a team needs additional resources.
- Specialists receive regular Inclusion Solutions emails full of the latest research and programs to support learners with Down syndrome

DSG is excited to report that Down syndrome groups in Memphis, St. Louis, Atlanta, Omaha, Austin, San Francisco, Denver, Detroit and Dallas have followed our lead and launched Down syndrome specialist programs in their area. We wish them well as we know this program will change lives. If you are interested in more information about this program please contact the DSG at amy@kcdsg.org or 913-384-4848

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Amy Allison'.

Amy Allison
Executive Director

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Down Syndrome Specialist Job Description

The DSG seeks to appoint a Down syndrome specialist in each school district. DSG representatives will work through the Special Education Director of the school district to select a candidate to receive training in teaching methods which have been successful for children with Down syndrome and serve as a resource to educators and parents within the district.

Qualities we hope for in the Down syndrome specialist:

- Vitally interested in the education of children 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 children with Down syndrome.
- Willing to act as a resource person for teachers currently teaching children 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.
- Be a contact person for the Guild when important information regarding children with Down syndrome becomes available.

Why Should My District Participate?

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 children 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.

As the horizon changes for children with Down syndrome in regular education, the school district would continue to receive up-to-date information, techniques, interventions and resources through access to an in-district Down syndrome Specialist.

Why Appoint A Specialist?

Our conference topics and training change from year to year based on the needs shared by school districts. We feel a specialist would be able to share specific information with teachers including information previously presented.

We also feel that a specialist will be able to recognize patterns of behavior and/or learning challenges that are common to children with Down syndrome and therefore be able to suggest appropriate interventions.

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.

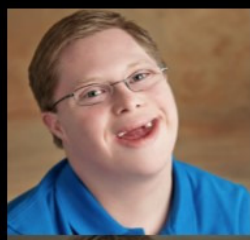
Districts Already Participating:

Kansas

Baldwin City
Blue Valley
Bonner/Piper
DeSoto
East Central Kansas Cooperative
Emporia
Gardner/Edgerton
Kansas Archdiocese
Kansas City USD 500
Lawrence
Leavenworth USD 453
McLouth
Olathe
Shawnee Mission
Turner USD 202

Missouri

Blue Springs R-IV
Clinton
Diocese of Kansas City/St. Joseph
Faucett
Grain Valley R-V
Hamilton R-II
Harrisonville R-IX
Kansas City 33
Kearney R-I
Keytesville R-III
Kirksville R-III
Lansing
Lawson R-XIV
Lee's Summit R-VII
Liberty
Marceline R-V
Maryville R-II
Meadville R-IV
North Kansas City
Parkville
Platte County R-III
Raytown C-2
St. Joseph
Smithville R-II



YES! Our School District Will Name a Down Syndrome Specialist.

School District: _____

Name: _____ Phone: _____

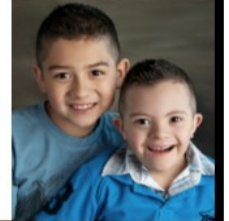
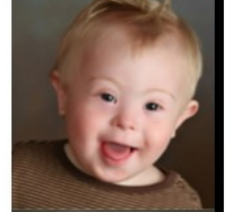
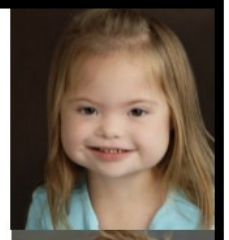
Position in School District: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Email: _____

DSG is excited to partner with your district and provide your staff the most up to date and accurate information on best practices for supporting students with Down syndrome. We appreciate you naming a specialist by July 1, 2014 so we can add them to our DS Specialist contact list and forward information about breakfasts and seminars for the 2014-2015 school year. Questions before naming a DS specialist? Contact Amy Allison at amy@kcdsg.org or 913-384-4848



Mail to:

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