



Where students learn to SOAR

800 Parkview Blvd.
Lombard, IL 60148
Phone: (630) 323-2900
www.soaringeagleacademy.org

Job Opening: PRINCIPAL

Soaring Eagle Academy a not for profit, ISBE approved therapeutic day school in Lombard, IL is seeking a full time **PRINCIPAL, serving in a non-traditional role**, to join our growing staff and student body. The Academy was founded by three Speech Language Pathologists, with an accumulation of over 80 years experience serving children and families with Autism and other related disorders, and a passion to showcase the amazing capacities of students with Autism to interact, communicate, think and learn. The academic and social programming is developed, expanded and supported by the SEA founders, with support from the SEA staff. SEA is the only school of its kind to utilize a Developmental Language approach implementing principles of the DIR® Floor Time model, to understanding and supporting students' social, language, sensory motor, emotional and academic development. This is a unique opportunity to serve in a non-traditional Principal role, with a dedicated staff implementing cutting edge developmental work, who understand and support developmental language, sensory processing strategies, emotional and academic development, and how this impacts children with autism. We believe that the "behaviors" others see as impacting education for these students are a result of their lack of comprehension, challenges to communicate and process sensory information from their environment and stay regulated around a broad range of emotions. With our appropriate interpretation of their intentions and actions, appropriate language-based strategies, emotional and sensory supports, and an individualized, multi-sensory, engaging and meaningful curriculum, our students are soaring. Join our team! For more information, please visit our website at www.soaringeagleacademy.org

Please mail the application and your resume to: Soaring Eagle Academy, 800 Parkview Boulevard, Lombard, IL 60148. Resume and application can be emailed to SEA Co-founder/Expert Clinician, Linda Cervenka, linda@soaringeagleacademy.org. Our application can be found on our website. Please no phone calls.

QUALIFICATIONS:

Endorsement or Approval on the Professional Educator License of either General Administrative, Principal or Director of Special Education and an endorsement as Learning Behavior Specialist 1 (LBS1).

- Willing to use your knowledge/expertise in a non-traditional Principal role to work within SEA's unique philosophy, therapeutic thinking and governance framework.
- Willing to report to, take direction from and collaborate with Behavior DIR® Expert Clinician supporting program and Behavior DIR® Expert Clinician supporting curriculum, related to SEA philosophy/programmatic thinking and decision-making.
- Willing to report to, take direction from and collaborate with the Executive Director, for issues related to ISBE policies/compliance, school law/liability and HR/employment practices.
- Significant experience with nonpublic and public school operations/regulations.
- Significant knowledge related to Illinois Learning Standards, Common Core, IDEA and Illinois State Board of Education guidelines.
- Significant experience supporting and facilitating the IEP process.

- Willingness to gain knowledge and participate in training in SEA philosophy methodology of Developmental Language Models including getting certified in the DIR® Floortime principles through taking courses, as determined necessary.
- Understanding of complex systems and the impact on staff and families.
- Must possess good interpersonal relationship skills and be adept at conflict resolution within the SEA collaborative process and governance.
- Ability to maintain a regulated emotional state within a highly emotional student/staff/family environment, initiating need for support when appropriate, that follows SEA governance.
- Ability to recognize and hold appropriate boundaries with SEA students, staff and families, in a consistent, kind and respectful manner within SEA governance structure.
- Appreciate and respect reflective process related to student, family and staff challenges, and decision-making.
- Ability to work with children and families demonstrating patience, kindness and compassion.
- Ability to work a flexible daily schedule that may include an 8:30 am arrival and 3:00 pm departure on weekdays during the regular school year of 181 days and summer session of 39 days. Not required to work on site during the 6 weeks of non-student attendance but expected to complete projects, preparation for IEPs, support challenges, etc as needed.

ESSENTIAL FUNCTIONS:

Utilize your knowledge and expertise in nonpublic/public school regulations (IDEA, Part 401, ISBE mandates), Illinois Learning Standards and the IEP process, to support the work of the Program Development Team, Behavior DIR® Expert Clinician Program, Behavior DIR® Expert Clinician Curriculum, teachers, support staff and teacher assistants, as they implement developmental thinking in SEA programming.

- Conduct and facilitate student IEP meeting and process in accordance with IDEA and ISBE mandates keeping in mind SEA developmental thinking and support of parents- including, annual review, domain/EDC, and transition planning.
- Meet with the Expert Clinicians assigned to the IEP, to discuss in advance any information relevant to the IEP meeting.
- Review and edit paperwork for IEP, annual review and domain EDC, transition planning.
- Review and support goals for measurability and compliance as requested by discipline supervisors.
- Oversee and coordinate with Administrative Assistant regarding tracking and scheduling of IEP and domain/EDC dates.
- Oversee the school Nurse only as it relates to communication announcements regarding contagious disease among our staff and/or students.
- Coordinate and support student arrival and departure as well as all other transportation issues, including planning and challenges within SEA and with placing districts.
- Coordinate and monitor cleanliness and building/grounds upkeep, including necessary repairs, etc.
- Review student dysregulation and injury reports but refer to Expert Clinician with question and concerns as needed.
- Schedule and document fire, tornado, law enforcement active shooter drills and procedures for ISBE purposes.
- Adhere to Lombard fire and police requirements for drills.
- Monitor fire extinguisher/alarm inspections.
- Monitor the student record file for each student enrolled according to section 401.270 Student records of the ISBE compliance.
- Direct administrative staff and cleaning staff in conjunction with the SEA founders.
- Meet weekly with SEA founders to discuss ISBE compliance, student, district or family concerns and maintain open communication regarding day-to-day matters.
- Act as the liaison between SEA and home school district regarding IEP or busing issues.

- Comply with all ISBE, school policy, educational best practices, rules, regulations, and policies.
- Communicate with staff, students, parents and districts in a transparent, calm, reflective, respectful, non-defensive manner.
- Maintain a collegial environment, respectful of all staff.

TERMS OF EMPLOYMENT: Flexible start date and hours, working at least 30 hours per week (Students are in attendance for 220 school days, 181 regular days and 39 summer session days). Full time staff employed 52 weeks of the year with 6 weeks of non-student attendance.

SALARY: Competitive salary commensurate with experience and essential duties of this position.

BENEFITS: Eligible for medical and ancillary benefits for full time position. Benefits can include medical, dental and vision, with SEA contributing a generous portion of the total cost. Short-term and long-term disability insurance and a life insurance benefit are offered at no cost. 403B participation is offered. 12 paid sick/personal days to be utilized by employee. Receive \$250 continuing education reimbursement annually.