Job Description: Blended Learning Coordinator

Background on the Recovery School District

The Louisiana Recovery School District (RSD) is a state turnaround agency whose mission is to transform chronically underperforming schools across the state to raise student achievement so that all Louisiana students can attain a college degree or professional career. The RSD has been nationally recognized as one of the most innovative public school districts in the country due to its unique system of governance, which supports autonomy and encourages innovation while ensuring accountability. The percentage of RSD students in New Orleans performing at grade level has doubled in the past five years, increasing from 28% in 2008 to 57% in 2013.

For the 2013-14 school year, the RSD directly operates 15 schools and oversees 59 charter schools. Three of the RSD's direct-run schools are New Orleans high schools that have been not only the lowest-performing schools in the city for years, but among the ten lowest-performing schools in the state. These schools are currently in the process of being phased out as successful charter operators phase in, beginning with 9th grade classes only and expanding one grade per year. This allows charter operators to open schools with a model that they believe will ensure success without displacing students.

The RSD utilizes a blended learning approach in its transforming high schools to ensure students are receiving the instruction and credits needed to graduate despite the small size of the school and faculty. Blended learning combines traditional classroom instruction with online instruction and activities. This model enables the RSD to offer a wide variety of courses that could not be provided by a small faculty and to increase the amount of self-directed learning, which is crucial to students’ post-secondary success.

Position Responsibilities and Qualifications

The RSD is seeking a Blended Learning Coordinator for Walter L. Cohen High School. Cohen High is a RSD direct-run school serving 12th graders only for the 2013-14 school year, while New Orleans College Prep operates 9th through 11th grade classes on the same campus as Cohen College Prep High School. Candidates must have secondary classroom experience, with online learning experience preferred.

The Blended Learning Coordinator will be responsible for facilitating a blended learning classroom, including both grade-level online learning and credit recovery across multiple subjects. He/she will work with subject teachers and the school counselor to track students’ progress and supplement online lessons with classroom instruction to ensure that students are able to graduate on-time. The Blended Learning Coordinator will report to the Principal. All RSD employees must comply with state and district regulations, policies and procedures.
Principal Duties and Responsibilities:

- Manage all aspects of the blended learning classroom
- Create a learning environment conducive to student achievement and development through setting and maintaining high academic and behavioral expectations and a high standard of rigor
- Manage student behavior through a positive behavior system that incorporates student recognition and positive student feedback
- Establish a positive, welcoming, and inclusive classroom environment
- Create a respectful culture through positive class-wide and individual interactions
- Act as the resident expert on online learning for both students and teachers and resolve technological issues as necessary
- Supplement online learning with classroom instruction; develop lessons aligned to Common Core Standards and present instructional content in an effective and engaging manner by implementing various techniques to target a range of learning modalities
- Enhance lessons through the use of varied and purposeful questioning designed to further students’ understanding and encourage diverse modes of thought, including analytical, practical, and critical thinking
- Provide specific, high-quality academic feedback to students
- Plan and collaborate with support staff for students with individual differences and implement differentiated instruction to meet student needs
- Communicate with parents to inform them of student progress and work with them to achieve students’ goals

Knowledge, Skills and Abilities Required:

- Unwavering belief that all students can learn and achieve success in school
- Deep commitment to RSD’s mission to transition and transform the state’s lowest performing schools
- Bachelor’s degree and minimum of 2 years of secondary classroom experience
- Louisiana teaching certificate in a secondary subject; certification in math or science preferred, and multiple certifications preferred
- Demonstrated success in leading students to significant academic growth and maintaining a positive learning environment
- Experience in online learning at the high school level preferred

How to Apply

Interested candidates should send a resume and tailored cover letter outlining their experience and qualifications to Katie Luscomb at Katie.Luscomb@rsdla.net. To learn more about the Recovery School District, please visit our website, www.rsd.la.gov.