

## VISION

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[LEA NAME] Public Schools will ensure that all students achieve at potential regardless of race, gender, or socio-economic status. Each student will make continuous progress and be at or above grade level.

As occupational therapists, we envision a community that respects, values, celebrates, and supports individual differences in education, and where students with disabilities are enabled to become contributing members of their community.



## MISSION

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The Exceptional Children's Program seeks to provide leadership and support to families and the educational community in improving the achievement of students with disabilities.

As occupational therapists, our goal is to maximize the disabled student's ability to independently and successfully participate in the educational process through the use of targeted, therapeutic activities, adaptation of the student's

environment, and training and consultation with staff and families.

## CONTACT US

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The Occupational Therapy Team office is located at:

*Lead Occupational Therapy Specialist*

Phone:

FAX:

E-mail:

## SCHOOL-BASED OCCUPATIONAL THERAPISTS

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Therapist Name –

Schools Served –

Voice Mail –

E-mail –

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**LEA NAME Public Schools**  
Exceptional Children's Programs

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## OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY



**[LEA NAME] PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

# HOW DOES OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY SUPPORT THE OCCUPATION OF LEARNING?

Occupational therapy practitioners in schools focus on a child's ability to participate in the following occupations:

- ◆ **Personal Care** (feeding, toileting, dressing, hygiene, managing personal belongings, personal organization)
- ◆ **Student role/Interaction Skills**  
(following protocols & routines in the classroom, specials, campus, bus, cafeteria; exercising safety awareness; respecting the space/time/materials of others; negotiating relationships with peers & staff)
- ◆ **Learning academics/Process skills**  
(following demonstrations, copying models, carrying out verbal directions, attending to instruction, using classroom tools, completing assignments)

◆ **Play** (turn-taking, imaginative play, sharing materials, exploring new play ideas/opportunities)

◆ **Community Integration/Work**  
(fieldtrips, school-related vocational training, community mobility)

◆ **Graphic communication** (handwriting, keyboarding, drawing, producing artwork)

## WHO RECEIVES OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY IN SCHOOLS?

Occupational therapy (OT) is a related service under Part B of the *Individuals with Disabilities Education Act* (IDEA), and is provided to help a student with a disability to benefit from special education. As such, OT is a supportive service. If a child has a disability, as defined by IDEA, and needs special education and related services to meet unique learning needs, then he/she might be eligible for OT services. The child must be eligible for special education before being considered for OT services in the schools under IDEA. Referral for an OT evaluation is a team decision. Eligibility for special education does not mean automatic eligibility for related services, including OT.

*Occupational therapy services are provided in schools by qualified, licensed occupational therapists and occupational therapy assistants. The [LEA NAME] Occupational Therapy team boasts over \_\_\_\_ combined years of experience in practice.*

Under Section 504 of the *Rehabilitation Act of 1973*, a disabled student may be eligible to receive OT when a physical or mental impairment substantially limits one or more major life activities. Major life activities include caring for oneself, performing manual tasks, walking, talking, seeing, hearing, speaking, breathing, working, and learning.

## WHAT SERVICES DO OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY PRACTITIONERS PROVIDE?

Occupational therapy practitioners are trained to assess and treat occupational performance problems in the environment where these occupations are being done. For children, school is one of the primary environments where the occupations of personal care, learning, and playing are engaged. In the context of interdisciplinary school-based teams, occupational therapy practitioners:

- ◆ participate in the referral process
- ◆ conduct evaluations

- ◆help determine eligibility
- ◆help create student goal plans
- ◆provide intervention
- ◆chart & communicate progress
- ◆re-evaluate
- ◆help determine need to terminate service

Occupational therapy practitioners intervene with students by providing direct service (one-on-one or in groups,) consultation, and monitoring based on the student's goal plan. Therapists may help make modifications to a student's environment, activities, or assignments in order to increase participation. Intervention occurs in the student's least restrictive environment, which usually means integrating therapy into the student's classroom schedule or daily routine.