



Occupational Therapy

School-based occupational therapy (OT) is a related service to special education when the unique skills of an OT are needed to support a child's access to specialized instruction. School-based OT services are delivered by highly trained, licensed Occupational Therapists who utilize purposeful, goal-directed activities and tasks to enable a child with a disability to benefit from their Individualized Education Program (IEP). School-based OT services must address educationally relevant needs and are not intended to satisfy the medical needs of a student.

The mission of the PSD Occupational Therapy Department is to provide evidence-based occupational therapy support that is student-focused and educationally relevant, maximizing the student's functional independence and participation within the educational environment and their ability to benefit from their individualized education program (IEP).

In a school setting, the OT may be involved in supporting areas that interfere with a child's educational performance including:

- school-related self-help skills,
- fine, gross and visual motor skills,
- sensory processing accommodations,
- school relevant visual processing/visual perceptual skills, (copying from the board, etc),
- positioning, functional mobility and transfers,
- motor components of functional communication (hand/arm function to hit a switch, etc.)
- Adaptive devices and equipment and modification of tasks