



Physical Therapy

School-based physical therapy is a related service to special education when the unique skills of a PT are needed to support a child's safe access and participation in the educational environment. School-based PT services are delivered by highly trained, licensed Physical Therapists who utilize purposeful, goal-directed activities to enable a child with a disability to benefit from their Individualized Education Program {IEP}. School-based PT services must address educationally relevant needs and are not intended to satisfy all the medical needs of a student.

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

In a school setting, the PT may be involved in supporting areas to promote a child's safe access and participation in their educational program including:

- Promoting the development of foundational gross motor skills
- Promoting improvement and independence mobility skills and transfers
- Promoting safe participation in PE and on the playground
- Equipment needs and training for use
- Posture and positioning for well-being
- Ongoing training with staff to support students

A resource for further information: <https://www.cde.state.co.us/cdesped/rs-pt>