

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the difference between school-based occupational therapy and services received in an outpatient/medical setting?

School-based OT is limited to addressing the obstacles interfering with attaining academic goals. The service enhances the student's ability to learn and function at school. Outpatient OT is broader in scope and addresses people of all ages focusing on gaining independence with activities of daily living at home and in the community.

My child has a prescription for occupational therapy. Can he/she get services at school?

A diagnosis or referral made by a physician does not guarantee OT services within the school setting. A student must meet the eligibility requirements for OT at school. If a student meets the criteria, the amount and frequency of service will be determined by the Individualized Education Plan (IEP) team. If there is no impact on accessing and progressing in the educational curriculum, OT services will not be provided in the school setting.

My son/daughter has been receiving OT services for years and now they say he/she is not eligible. Why? Occupational therapists design and modify students programs to meet their current needs. If a program can be established that meets a student's ongoing needs and it allows them to function in the educational environment, OT services are then discontinued.

Information Resources

American Occupational
Therapy Association
www.aota.org
Michigan Occupational Therapy
Association
www.mi-ota.com
Michigan Alliance of School
Physical and Occupational
Therapists
www.maspot.org

Lapeer County Intermediate School District and its constituent districts do not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, religion, sex, age, disability, weight, height, or marital status in their programs and activities. The following persons have been designated to handle inquiries and assist in completing the Board-approved grievance procedure (Guidelines #2260B, 3122B and 4122 B) regarding the nondiscrimination policies:

Michelle Proulx

Director of Special Education
(students)

Ann M. Schwieman

Director of Administrative Services
and Personnel (staff)

1996 W. Oregon Street
Lapeer, MI 48446
(810) 664-5917



Lapeer County Intermediate School District
Education and Technology Center
690 N. Lake Pleasant Road
Attica, MI 48412
Phone: 810-664-1124

www.lcisd.k12.mi.us



**OCCUPATIONAL
THERAPY SERVICES
IN THE SCHOOL
SETTING**

**ALMONT
DRYDEN
IMLAY CITY
LAPEER
NORTH
BRANCH**

**Special Education
Programs and
Services**

What is an Occupational Therapist?

An Occupational Therapist (OT) is a person who helps people of all ages to improve their ability to perform activities of daily living and work/school tasks. In the school setting, Occupational therapists use purposeful activity to facilitate student's active participation in independent academic pursuits. They use functional activities to provide the foundation for developmental, academic, and social emotional readiness. Occupational therapists are college graduates that have passed a national certification examination in order to be granted state registration and licensure.

The following areas are examples of where an OT, as part of the educational team, may be helpful in assessment, planning and implementation of educational support programs:

Manipulation of School-related Materials:

Motor skills to form efficient manipulation and use of classroom tools and materials in conjunction with development of visual-perceptual, visual-motor, visual tracking, visual focus, and visual attention skills.

Movement and Postural Control:

Motor skills for combining movements necessary for control and coordination in the educational environment

Social and Self Management:

Environmental adaptations and coping skills to improve participation in school tasks

Assistive Technology:

Use of low, mid, and high tech tools to support students ability to access educational tasks

Personal Needs:

Management of self care/ personal care needs in the school environments

OTs collaborate with teachers, parents, and other education staff to help implement a student's special education program and to help the student benefit from their special education program.



Who is Eligible for Occupational Therapy Services?

Students who are eligible for special education services may receive OT as a related service following an occupational therapy evaluation and determination of need.



How is Eligibility Determined?

OTs perform evaluations to assist the educational team in determining special education eligibility as well as qualification for occupational therapy services. Therapists use standardized testing, functional assessments, authentic assessment, and observation to determine a student's ability to access and participate in the educational curriculum.