

Physical Therapy (PT)

Overview

Physical therapy focuses on assisting students to acquire the functional abilities necessary to adapt to all educational environments and access their educational materials. They help students with daily activities related to participation within the educational environment, facilitate the use of assistive devices (wheelchairs, adaptive seating etc.) and ensure appropriate staff training to facilitate both independence and safe use of assistive devices.

What assistance do we offer schools?

- Work with IEP Teams to support meaningful progress toward IEP goals
- Support mastery of activities within the school day, e.g., moving through school grounds, sitting in class, standing in line or at the board, moving in class or through the building
- Conduct screenings and/or assessments and share results with IEP Teams
- Provide written input to inform student/present levels of performance
- Make recommendations to include adaptations to school environments
- Provide physical therapy services to students to facilitate growth in gross motor skills
- Identify and obtain needed/specialized equipment
- Collaborate with school staff and other professionals
- Gather information about functional abilities and physical development relevant to students' education.

Goals of Physical Therapists

Physical therapists in schools will work with other educational professionals, members of the community and families to help students engage in their educational activities. This collaboration is a foundation for promoting the participation of students with disabilities in the general educational environment and help to identify long-term goals for appropriate post-school outcomes. This service delivery model increases the capacity of schools to meet the needs of all children.

[NDE Report of Caseloads \(PT\)](#)

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