

## GUIDELINES FOR THERAPY (OT or PT)

Occupational therapy or Physical therapy as an educational support service can be quite different from therapy in a hospital or clinic. School-based therapists focus on assisting students to acquire the functional abilities necessary to access educational materials and adapt to their educational environment. They may help students with daily activities related to educational participation, adapt the performance context, teach alternative methods, or facilitate the use of assistive devices. Occupational and physical therapists in schools work with other educational professionals, members of the community and families to help all students engage in their educational activities. This collaboration is also the foundation for promoting the participation of students with disabilities in the general educational environment.

A student may receive OT or PT services as warranted by an IEP decision based on data including classroom observation, work sample and/or an Occupational or Physical Therapist's professional opinion. Related services must be related to the IEP goals and benchmarks.

A Standard Score (SS) that will qualify a student for Occupational Therapy (OT) or Physical therapy (PT) is one standard deviation below the mean according to the test author. Example: Bruininks-Oseretsky (BOT2) Test of Motor Proficiency standard deviation is 10 and 50 is the mean score; therefore the standard score to qualify would be 40.

Occupational or Physical Therapists can provide suggestions to classroom teachers and/or parents when a student does not qualify for special education services under the Alabama Administrative Code criteria for disabilities.