

## LOS ANGELES UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

Division of Special Education, Related Services

Occupational and Physical Therapy Program

### *Frequently Asked Questions:*

#### *Appropriate Occupational Therapy and Physical Therapy Service*

#### *Provision and Support for OT and PT Students (Re: Temporarily Uncovered Schools)*

(Revised August 17, 2015)

<p><b>Why is there no Occupational Therapist or Physical Therapist assigned to my school?</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Due to a nationwide critical shortage of Occupational Therapists and Physical Therapists in all work settings, our school is <i>temporarily</i> without an Occupational Therapist or Physical Therapist.</li> </ul>
<p><b>What do we tell parents?</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• LAUSD has ongoing hiring practices for OTs and PTs and is working diligently to fill all vacancies.</li> <li>• Your student will receive compensatory services once a provider is assigned to your school.</li> </ul>
<p><b>What if we have students who require assessment and we have no provider assigned?</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Contact the Senior School Therapist for support <i>prior to</i> formulating an assessment plan for Occupational Therapy or Physical Therapy.</li> </ul>
<p><b>How do we document compensatory services?</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The following statement is to be written on FAPE 2, Part 4 of the IEP, <b>filling in the appropriate information:</b>   <i>“Due to the lack of provision of Occupational Therapy/ Physical Therapy (circle one) services from (write in the start date of service disruption) to the current date, _____ sessions are owed to this student based on the time and frequency indicated on the last signed IEP which was dated (add date of last IEP which contained OT or PT goals). These services are documented in the service grid labeled “Occupational Therapy” or “Physical Therapy.” Compensatory services will be provided by the District as soon as an Occupational Therapy or Physical Therapy provider is assigned.”</i> </li> <li>• Please contact your Local District Senior School Therapist for assistance in determining the amount of compensatory time.</li> </ul>
<p><b>How do we handle IEPs if:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>There are OT or PT goals and our school has no OT or PT?</b></li> </ul>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <b>Refer to the <u>Special Education Policies and Procedures Manual</u></b> (Appendix A, Section IV. - <i>IEP Team Guidelines for Determining Appropriate Related Services and Related Services Providers page 193</i>).</li> <li>2. <b>Hold the IEP meeting.</b> You may need to hold an amendment to further discuss OT or PT services when a service provider is available.</li> <li>3. <b>Continue the Same Present Level and Goal(s) for OT or PT service</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The IEP team must copy and paste the OT or PT PLPS and goal(s) from the previous active IEP document into the new IEP. Be sure to include all elements of the goal page, including copying the time and frequency from the FAPE 2 grid. In addition, the team must include Occupational Therapy or Physical Therapy service eligibility on page 4 of the IEP if this is the student’s (only) SPED eligibility.</li> <li>• The IEP team should discuss the OT or PT goals and determine how to provide support for the goals as much as possible. The classroom teacher should <i>always</i> be familiar with the OT or PT goals and work to address the needs at the appropriate level in the classroom. IEP team discussion should emphasize that even if the student is not receiving OT or PT services the student’s unique needs can be</li> </ul> </li> </ol>

	<p>addressed, in part, by the teacher. This support does not replace the compensatory OT or PT services that will be delivered to the student once an Occupational Therapist or Physical Therapist becomes available.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Document on FAPE 2, Part 4 the Compensatory statement on p.1 of this document.</b></li></ul>
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For Additional Information: Please contact Lisa Test, Coordinating Therapist over Occupational Therapy and Physical Therapy Program at: 213. 241.6200

FAX 213. 241. 8435

School Letterhead  
(No Service Provider Letter OT)

Dear Parents,

At the present time our school does not have an assigned occupational therapist due to a critical shortage of occupational therapists in the District and nationwide. The District Occupational Therapy and Physical Therapy Office is working diligently with the Human Resources Department to recruit more occupational therapists and staff all schools that need therapists. We are hopeful that this will be a temporary problem for our school.

Our school's special education administrator is keeping a record of the missed occupational therapy sessions owed to your child. The missed time will be documented on your child's next IEP and will be provided to your child as compensatory time. When an occupational therapist is assigned to our school, your child will receive the compensatory occupational therapy service in addition to their ongoing occupational therapy as prescribed in their IEP.

In the meantime, your child's teacher will review your child's occupational therapy goals and provide support for the goals in the classroom. You may want to review your child's occupational therapy goals and ask the teacher how you can support these goals at home.

We remain committed to providing the best educational program for your child and hope you will support us as we work together through these difficult times.

Sincerely,

Principal