## Rubric for Evaluating Colorado's Specialized Service Professionals: Occupational Therapists

## Definition of an Effective Occupational Therapist

Effective occupational therapists are vital members of the education team. They are properly credentialed and have knowledge of federal and state laws, evidence-based practices in educational settings and student occupational performance. Effective occupational therapists strive to support growth and development in the least restrictive environment, close achievement gaps and prepare diverse student populations for postsecondary and workforce success. Effective occupational therapists assist students in accessing academic instruction, environmental adaptations and meaningful activities through skill acquisition, environmental adaptations and educational accommodations and modifications. They provide collaborative and focused evaluations, determination of services based on student performance, service plan development and progress monitoring in the educational context. Effective occupational therapists have a deep understanding on the interconnectedness of the home, school and community. Through reflection, advocacy and leadership, they enhance the academic achievement and personal/social/physical development of their students.



specially designed instru	uction.			
	and	and	and	and
THE OCCUPATIONAL THERAPIST: □ Accesses research- based practices.	THE OCCUPATIONAL THERAPIST: Identifies current occupational therapy research relevant to student performance.	THE OCCUPATIONAL THERAPIST: Incorporates knowledge from current research to meet individual needs of students.	STUDENTS: Use a variety of research- based/evidence- based tools and strategies in learning.	<ul> <li>SIGNIFICANT</li> <li>ADULTS:</li> <li>□ Use a variety of research-based tools and strategies to support student learning.</li> </ul>
		Collaborates in the training of school personnel regarding evidence based interventions.		
<b>ELEMENT D:</b> Occupation influences on student ac		te knowledge of the interc	onnectedness of home, sc	hool and community
	and	and	and	and
THE OCCUPATIONAL THERAPIST: Has knowledge of the-system of care including the family, school and/or community.	THE OCCUPATIONAL THERAPIST: Participates in a system of care for students, which include the family, school and/or community and their impact on student learning outcomes.	THE OCCUPATIONAL THERAPIST: Coordinates information from families and significant adults with other professionals who provide services to the student.	STUDENTS AND/OR SIGNIFICANT ADULTS: Partner with educational team for the benefit of the student.	STUDENTS AND/OR SIGNIFICANT ADULTS: Seek occupational therapist's assistance to find resources an services to support student needs.
ELEMENT E: Occupatio		e knowledge of and exper	-	-
THE OCCUPATIONAL THERAPIST: Is familiar with the standards and domain and process of occupational therapy.	<ul> <li>and</li> <li>THE OCCUPATIONAL THERAPIST:</li> <li>Is knowledgeable about the domain and process of occupational therapy practice including philosophy and practice concepts.</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>and</li> <li>THE</li> <li>OCCUPATIONAL</li> <li>THERAPIST:</li> <li>Plans and implements occupational therapy services in accordance with nationally recognized professional practice.</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>and</li> <li>STUDENTS:</li> <li>Participate in services that are in accordance with the domain and process of occupational therapy.</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>and</li> <li>STUDENTS AND/OR</li> <li>SIGNIFICANT</li> <li>ADULTS:</li> <li>Express</li> <li>understanding of the purpose of educationally-relate occupational therap services and the benefits of such services.</li> </ul>

<b>Evaluator Comments:</b>	<b>Comments of Person Being Evaluated:</b>
<i>Please indicate the element for which the comment applies if</i>	(Please indicate the element for which the comment applies if not for
<i>not for the standard as a whole.</i>	the standard as a whole):
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Basic	Partially Proficient	Proficient (Meets State Standard)	Accomplished	Exemplary
	onal therapists foster safe a	and accessible learning en	vironments in which eacl	n student has a positive,
nurturing relationship v	vith caring adults and peer		and a	
	and	and	and	and
THE	THE	THE	STUDENTS:	SIGNIFICANT
OCCUPATIONAL	OCCUPATIONAL	OCCUPATIONAL	□ Safely access	ADULTS:
THERAPIST:	THERAPIST:	THERAPIST:	targeted school	$\Box$ With the support
Understands the	□ Anticipates	Collaborates with	environment(s).	of the occupationa
importance of a	potentially	other professionals		therapist, provide
safe, accessible	hazardous	to improve safety		students with
environment in	situations and takes	and accessibility to		opportunities or
which students	steps to prevent	the school		strategies to
experience a caring	accidents.	environment.		engage in the
relationship.		Drouidas a apring		development of positive peer
		Provides a caring relationship for		relationships.
		each student.		relationships.
ELEMENT B: Occupatio	onal therapists demonstrat		hin the home school and	local and global
communities.				local alla Biobai
	and	and	and	and
THE	THE	THE	STUDENTS AND	STUDENTS:
OCCUPATIONAL	OCCUPATIONAL	OCCUPATIONAL	FAMILIES:	$\square$ Respect the
THERAPIST:	THERAPIST:	THERAPIST:	$\Box$ Feel respected by	background of
□ Understands the	$\Box$ Understands the	□ Respects diversity	the therapist.	fellow students.
importance of	importance of equal	in home and		
respect for student	access to programs	community and		
diversity.	and facilities for all	educates others		
	students.	about disability		
		awareness and the		
		importance of		
		inclusion.		
Quality Standard II	aupport and /ar actable-b	asfo inclusive and record	ful looming and second	ta fan a diwaraa
populational therapists	support and/or establish	sale, inclusive and respect	ing environment	ls for a diverse
Basic	Partially Proficient	Proficient (Meets State Standard)	Accomplished	Exemplary

	and	and	and	and
THE OCCUPATIONAL THERAPIST: Identifies each student's strengths, interests and needs.	THE OCCUPATIONAL THERAPIST: Establishes priorities and goals based on unique student interests, strengths and needs.	THE OCCUPATIONAL THERAPIST: Modifies interventions to reflect unique student interests, strengths and needs.	STUDENTS AND SIGNIFICANT ADULTS: Understand the importance of students' unique interests, strengths and needs in achieving goals.	STUDENTS: Expand participation in the learning environment based on their strengths and interests.
	onal therapists engage in p and other significant adult		uctive communication and	l work collaboratively
with students, families a	and	and	and	and
THE OCCUPATIONAL THERAPIST: Understands the importance of clear, constructive communications.	THE OCCUPATIONAL THERAPIST: Establishes effective communications with students, families and other significant adults.	THE OCCUPATIONAL THERAPIST: Uses a variety of methods to communicate with students, families and other significant adults to promote sharing of pertinent information.	STUDENTS AND SIGNIFICANT ADULTS: Feel comfortable communicating and interacting with the occupational therapist:	STUDENTS AND/OR SIGNIFICANT ADULTS: Appropriately share relevant information that may impact student performance with an understanding of confidentiality.
	nal therapists select, creat vior, efficient use of time a			characterized by
THE OCCUPATIONAL THERAPIST: Provides expectations that guide student behavior.	<ul> <li> and</li> <li>THE OCCUPATIONAL THERAPIST:</li> <li>Modifies services in response to student behavioral needs.</li> </ul>	<ul> <li> and</li> <li>THE OCCUPATIONAL THERAPIST:</li> <li>Collaboratively creates an accessible learning environment with expectations for student behavior that maximize use of service time with student.</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>and</li> <li>STUDENTS:</li> <li>Abide by established expectations during therapeutic activities.</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>and</li> <li>STUDENTS:</li> <li>Demonstrate, with the support of the occupational therapist, behaviors that positively contribute to increased participation in school.</li> </ul>

<b>Quality Standard II</b> Occupational therapists support and/or establish safe, inclus population of students.	sive and respectful learning environments for a diverse
<b>Evaluator Comments:</b> <i>Please indicate the element for which the comment applies if</i> <i>not for the standard as a whole.</i>	<b>Comments of Person Being Evaluated:</b> (Please indicate the element for which the comment applies if not for the standard as a whole):
Ovality Standard III	

Basic	Partially Proficient	Proficient (Meets State Standard)	Accomplished	Exemplary
		rvices and/or specially de lards, their districts' organ		
THE OCCUPATIONAL	and THE OCCUPATIONAL	and THE OCCUPATIONAL	and STUDENTS AND SIGNIFICANT	and STUDENTS AND/OF SIGNIFICANT
THERAPIST: Is aware of standards, regulations and laws that impact occupational therapy practice in the educational setting.	THERAPIST: Complies with timelines for state and federal legislation and local regulations and procedures.	<ul> <li>THERAPIST:</li> <li>Ensures documentation is aligned with federal and state laws and district policies and/or procedures.</li> <li>Collaborates in the development of measureable student goals based on Colorado academic standards.</li> </ul>	ADULTS: Understand that the nature the services provided are determined by state and federal laws and budgetary issues.	ADULTS: Participate in the development of student learning goals-

Basic	Partially Proficient	Proficient (Meets State Standard) Accomplished		Exemplary
	onal therapists utilize mul services and/or specially	tiple sources of data, whic designed instruction.	h include valid informal a	and/or formal
	and	and	and	and
integrate multiple sourc	ces of data to inform pract	THE OCCUPATIONAL THERAPIST: Determines occupational therapy service needs based on evaluation data and educational team discussion. Appropriately interprets and shares evaluation data with team. Determines Determines on evaluation data and educational team discussion.		
academic standards and	l individualized student g	oals.	and	and
THE OCCUPATIONAL THERAPIST: Maintains student data and/or documentation to plan services.	THE OCCUPATIONAL THERAPIST: Establishes and adapts service delivery model based on individual needs of students.	<ul> <li>THE OCCUPATIONAL THERAPIST:</li> <li>□ Provides services in alignment with individual education programs based on the integration of multiple data sources.</li> <li>□ Facilitates the transition or exit process in collaboration with the educational team.</li> </ul>	STUDENTS: Participate in educationally challenging activities based on therapist's use of evaluation findings.	STUDENTS AND SIGNIFICANT ADULTS: Practice skills, based on evaluation findings and student needs, in their home and school environment.

Basic	Partially Proficient	Proficient (Meets State Standard)	Accomplished	Exemplary
	onal therapists support an	d integrate appropriate a	vailable technology in the	ir services and/or
specially designed list	ruction to maximize studer	and	and	and
	THE OCCUPATIONAL THERAPIST: Supports the use of appropriate available technology to maximize student outcomes.			STUDENTS: Use appropriate available assistive technology/ adaptive equipment to support their learning and participation in the classroom.
	-thinking, self-advocacy, le	and	and	and
THE DCCUPATIONAL THERAPIST: Communicates high expectations for all students.	THE OCCUPATIONAL THERAPIST: Sets individual student expectations/goals at a level that challenges students.	THE OCCUPATIONAL THERAPIST: Collaborates with the educational team to develop goals ensuring that students are working toward high expectations. Identifies opportunities for students to practice self-advocacy with functional tasks.	STUDENTS: □ Respond positively to the therapist's expectations.	STUDENTS: Demonstrate problem solving skills to improve functional independence based on the students' developmental levels, skills and abilities.

**Quality Standard III** Occupational therapists plan, deliver and/or monitor services and/or specially designed instruction and/or create environments that facilitate learning for their students.

Basic	Partially Proficient	Proficient (Meets State Standard)	Accomplished	Exemplary
<b>ELEMENT F:</b> Occupatio	nal therapists communica	ate effectively with studer	its.	
	and	and	and	and
THE OCCUPATIONAL THERAPIST: Uses effective communication skills with students.	<ul> <li>THE OCCUPATIONAL THERAPIST:</li> <li>Builds rapport with students.</li> <li>Allows time for student response and interaction.</li> <li>Provides positive feedback to student on performance.</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>THE OCCUPATIONAL</li> <li>THERAPIST:</li> <li>□ Modifies communication based on student, emotional and ability level.</li> <li>□ Works with colleagues to improve understanding of and ability to communicate with students who have diverse needs.</li> </ul>	STUDENTS: Engage in positive dialogue during services, which expand the therapists understanding of students' strengths, needs and interests.	STUDENTS AND SIGNIFICANT ADULTS: Understand and follow written and oral instructions to assist in therapeutic activities.
their professions.				-
	and	and	and	and
THE OCCUPATIONAL THERAPIST: Selects activities that prepare students for engagement in the least restrictive environment.	THE OCCUPATIONAL THERAPIST: Conducts activity/task analysis to support the skills needed for a student to engage in an activity.	<ul> <li>THE OCCUPATIONAL THERAPIST:</li> <li>□ Interprets results from task analyses to identify barriers to accessing the educational environment and provide services to improve success.</li> <li>□ Uses a variety of service delivery approaches to meet student needs.</li> </ul>	STUDENTS AND SIGNIFICANT ADULTS: Integrate recommendations to improve participation in the least restrictive environment.	STUDENTS: Participate in recommended occupational services based on their developmental level, skills and abilities.

## **Quality Standard III**

Occupational therapists plan, deliver and/or monitor services and/or specially designed instruction and/or create environments that facilitate learning for their students.

Basic	Partially Proficient		ficient ite Standard)	Accomplished	Exemplary
<b>Evaluator Comments:</b> <i>Please indicate the element for the standard as a</i>	ent for which the comment whole.	applies if	-	f <b>Person Being Evaluated:</b> te the element for which the as a whole):	comment applies if not for



<b>ELEMENT C:</b> Occupatio	ELEMENT C: Occupational therapists respond to complex, dynamic environments.					
	and	and		and	and	
THE	THE	THE		THE	THE	
OCCUPATIONAL THERAPIST:	OCCUPATIONAL THERAPIST:	OCCUPA THERAP	ATIONAL DIST:	OCCUPATIONAL THERAPIST:	OCCUPATIONAL THERAPIST:	
□ Understands the complexity and dynamic nature of the work environment.	<ul> <li>Seeks professional guidance to prioritize competing demands within the work environment.</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Effect priori comp demai work</li> <li>Work studer</li> </ul>	tively tizes	<ul> <li>Recognizes and willingly responds to the fluid demands of the work environment.</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>☐ Acts as an agent of change for the department and/or the LEA.</li> </ul>	
<b>Evaluator Comments:</b>			Comments of	Person Being Evaluated:		
	ent for which the comment	applies if		e the element for which the c	comment applies if not for	
not for the standard as a	whole.		the standard a	s a whole):		

OCCUPATIONAL THERAPIST:       OCCUPATIONAL THERAPIST:       OCCUPATIONAL THERAPIST:       THERAPIST:       Integrates collaboratively shakeholders in the other professional to support progress towards student outcomes.       THERAPIST:       Integrates collaboratively shared information into services to gather various perspectives to meet the needs of students.       THERAPIST:       THERAPIST:         Image: Integrates       Integrates       Integrates       Establishes ong partnerships with other school       Proactively shared information into services to benefit the student.       Stateholders in the students.         Image: Integrates       Image: Integrates       Image: Integrates       Image: Integrates       Image: Integrates         Image: Integrates       Image: Integrates       Image: Integrates       Image: Integrates       Image: Integrates         Image: Integrates       Image: Integrates       Image: Integrates       Image: Integrates       Image: Integrates         Image: Integrates       Image: Integrates       Image: Integrates       Image: Integrates       Image: Integrates         Image: Integrates       Image: Integrates       Image: Integrates       Image: Integrates       Image: Integrates         Image: Integrates       Image: Integrates       Image: Integrates       Image: Integrates       Image: Integrates         Image: Integrates       Image: Integrates       Image: Integrates       Image: Integ	Basic	Partially Proficient	Proficient (Meets State Standard)	Accomplished	Exemplary
THE OCCUPATIONAL THERAPIST:       THE OCCUPATIONAL THE OCCUPATIONAL       THE OCCUPATIONAL THE OCCUPATIONAL       THE OCCUPATIONAL THERAPIST:       THE OCCUPATIONAL THERAPIST:       THE OCCUPATIONAL THERAPIST:       THE OCCUPATIONAL THE OCCUPATIONAL THERAPIST:       THE OCCUPATIONAL THE OCCUPATIONAL THERAPIST:       THE OCCUPATIONAL THE OCCUPATIONAL THERAPIST:       THE OCCUPATIONAL THE OCCUPATIONAL THERAPIST:       THE OCCUPATIONAL THERAPIST:       THE OCCUPATIONAL THERAPIST: <tda< th=""><th>ELEMENT A: Occupation</th><th>onal therapists collaborate</th><th>e with internal and exte</th><th>rnal stakeholders to meet</th><th>the needs of students.</th></tda<>	ELEMENT A: Occupation	onal therapists collaborate	e with internal and exte	rnal stakeholders to meet	the needs of students.
ELEMENT B: Occupational therapists advocate for students, families.         ELEMENT B: Occupational therapists advocate for students, families and schools.         THE         OCCUPATIONAL         THE OCCUPATIONAL         THERAPIST:         Advocates for students.         Students.         Advocates for students.         Advocates for students.         Students.         OCCUPATIONAL THERAPIST:         Advocates for students.         Students.         Device         Device<	OCCUPATIONAL THERAPIST: Identifies key stakeholders in the	THE OCCUPATIONAL THERAPIST: Collaborates with other professionals to support progress towards student	<ul> <li>THE OCCUPATIONAL THERAPIST:</li> <li>□ Initiates professional dialogue with other school providers to gather various perspectives to meet the needs of students.</li> <li>□ Initiates and /or</li> </ul>	THE OCCUPATIONAL THERAPIST: Integrates collaboratively shared information into services to benefit the student. Proactively shares own analyses of student needs with	THE OCCUPATIONAL THERAPIST: Establishes ongoing partnerships with external stakeholders to support the needs of
OCCUPATIONAL THERAPIST:       OCCUPATIONAL THERAPIST:       OCCUPATIONAL THERAPIST:       OCCUPATIONAL THERAPIST:       OCCUPATIONAL THERAPIST:       OTHER SIGNIFICANT         △ Advocates for students.       △ Actively supports disability awareness at the school and district level.       △ Advocates for curricular, school climate and service       ○ Plans and/or proposes       ○ Have knowledg how to access         ○ Mathematication       ○ CCUPATIONAL       ○ CCUPATIONAL       ○ Actively supports         ○ Actively supports       ○ Actively supports       ○ Advocates for curricular, school       ○ Plans and/or       ○ Have knowledg         ○ advocacy supports       ○ Improvements.       ○ Programs for       ○ Advocacy supports       ○ Advocacy supports	ELEMENT B: Occupation		communication with families. or students, families and		and
		OCCUPATIONAL THERAPIST: Actively supports disability awareness at the school and district	OCCUPATIONAL THERAPIST: Advocates for curricular, school climate and service	OCCUPATIONAL THERAPIST: Plans and/or proposes educational programs for department and/or school staff which	OTHER SIGNIFICANT ADULTS: Have knowledge of how to access advocacy support and resources for th benefit of the student based on information provided by the occupational

Basic	Partially Proficient	Proficient (Meets State Standard)	Accomplished	Exemplary
ELEMENT C: Occupation	onal therapists demonstr	ate leadership in their ed	lucational setting(s).	
	and	and	and	and
THE OCCUPATIONAL THERAPIST: Accurately and appropriately defines occupational therapy services.	THE OCCUPATIONAL THERAPIST: Recognizes opportunities to develop leadership skills.	THE OCCUPATIONAL THERAPIST: Makes contributions from an occupational therapy perspective to school or district teams.	<ul> <li>THE OCCUPATIONAL THERAPIST:</li> <li>Provides leadership to school-based teams in order to maximize the skills and knowledge of colleagues.</li> <li>Shares knowledge through mentorship of colleagues.</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>THE         OCCUPATIONAL         THERAPIST:         Assists other staff             with interpretation             of regulations and             policies that impac             school-based             occupational             therapy.         </li> <li>Confers with school             administrators             and/or supervisors             to improve working             and learning</li> </ul>
			o educational practices and	conditions.  Conditions.  Assumes additionaduties and/or leadership roles in the department and/or school(s). I their profession.
	and	and	and	and
THE OCCUPATIONAL THERAPIST: Contributes knowledge and skills to the educational work of the school.	THE OCCUPATIONAL THERAPIST: Shares knowledge of student's occupational performance within the context of IEP meetings.	THE OCCUPATIONAL THERAPIST: Implements effective consultation strategies.	THE OCCUPATIONAL THERAPIST: Develops consultative tools or programs to improve student outcomes.	THE OCCUPATIONAL THERAPIST: Advocates for occupational therapists inclusion in educational reform/decision making processes Contributes to the development of th occupational therapy profession

Basic	Partially Proficient		oficient ate Standard)	Accomplished	Exemplary
ELEMENT E: Occupa	ational therapists demonstr	-	hical standards.		1
	and	and		and	and
THE OCCUPATIONAL	THE OCCUPATIONAL	THE OCCUPATIONAL		THE OCCUPATIONAL	THE OCCUPATIONAL
THERAPIST: ☐ Maintains confidentiality of student records as required by law.	actions and decisions that affect student	THERAPIST: Follows district procedures for reporting unsafe or unethical practices.		THERAPIST: Models respect for the dignity, privacy and confidentiality of others within the working	THERAPIST: Promotes ethical standards of practice in the school and/or district teams.
Upholds the professional Code of Ethics and Standards of Practice for Occupational Therapy.	outcomes.			environment.	
Evaluator Comment	ement for which the commen	nt applies		<b>Person Being Evaluated:</b> the element for which the co a whole):	omment applies if not fo