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

## Definition of an Effective Occupational Therapist

Effective school 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 school 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.

<b>Quality Standard I</b> : Occupational therapists demonstrate mastery of and expertise in the domain for which they are responsible.							
Basic	Partially Proficient	Proficient (Meets State Standard)	Accomplished	Exemplary			
<b>Element a:</b> Occupational therapists demonstrate knowledge of current developmental science, the ways in which learning takes place, and the appropriate levels of intellectual, social, and emotional development of their students.							
	and	and	and	and			
<ul> <li>THE OCCUPATIONAL THERAPIST</li> <li>□ Understands the relevance of normal developmental skill sequences to their work.</li> </ul>	THE OCCUPATIONAL THERAPIST Bases services and/or specially designed instruction on an understanding of developmental science.	THE OCCUPATIONAL THERAPIST Appropriately plans services to the needs of specific students based on knowledge of developmental science.	STUDENTS AND/OR FAMILIES Understand information related to their student's developmental trajectory.	STUDENTS Engage in challenging learning activities representing appropriate developmental levels.			
		knowledge of effective set , math, and other content		signed instruction that			
	and	and	and	and			
THE OCCUPATIONAL THERAPIST Identifies potential barriers to student access to academic and non-academic content areas.	THE OCCUPATIONAL THERAPIST Designs services and/or specially designed instruction based on district/school adopted curriculum and Colorado academic standards.	THE OCCUPATIONAL THERAPIST Reduces barriers to learning experienced by individual students within the learning environment.	STUDENTS: Are engaged in the educational environment as a result of a reduction of barriers to learning.	STUDENTS: Identify and participate in resolving barriers to learning in the educational environment.			

Basic	Partially Proficient	Proficient (Meets State Standard)	Accomplished	Exemplary
Flament c: Occupation	-	dence-based practices and		
specially designed instru		dence-based practices and	research mungs met un	en services and/or
	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 tools and strategies in learning.	STUDENTS: Demonstrate measureable improvement in skills attainment.
		knowledge of the interco	nnectedness of home, scho	ool, and community
influences on student ac	hievement.	1	1	1
	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 FAMILIES Partner with the occupational therapist and educational team for the benefit of the student.	<ul> <li>STUDENTS AND/OI</li> <li>FAMILIES</li> <li>□ Seek the occupational therapist's assistance to find resources and services to suppor student needs.</li> </ul>
Element e: Occupation	-	knowledge of and experti	-	Г
	and	and	and	and
THE OCCUPATIONAL THERAPIST Is familiar with the standards and domain and process of occupational therapy.	THE OCCUPATIONAL THERAPIST □ Is knowledgeable about the domain and process of occupational therapy practice including philosophy and	THE OCCUPATIONAL THERAPIST Plans and implements occupational therapy services in accordance with nationally recognized	STUDENTS Participate in therapy services that are in accordance with the domain and process of occupational therapy.	STUDENTS AND/OI FAMILIES Express understanding of the purpose of educationally- related occupational therapy services and the benefits of

<b>Quality Standard I:</b> Occupational therapists demonstrate mastery of and expertise in the domain for which they are responsible.							
Evaluator Comments (Required for Ratings of "Basic" or "Partially Proficient" and recommended for all rating levels).	Comments of person being evaluated. Please indicate the element for which the comment applies if not for the standard as a whole.						

	<b>d II:</b> Occupational			
Basic	arning environmen Partially Proficient	Proficient (Meets State Standard)	Accomplished	Exemplary
	al therapists foster safe an		ronments in which each st	tudent has a positive,
nurturing relationship v	vith caring adults and peer		and	and
	and	and	and	and
THE OCCUPATIONAL THERAPIST Understands the importance of a safe, accessible environment in which students experience a caring relationship	THE OCCUPATIONAL THERAPIST Anticipates potentially hazardous situations and takes steps to prevent accidents.	<ul> <li>THE         <pre>OCCUPATIONAL         <pre>THERAPIST</pre></pre></li></ul>	STUDENTS □ Safely access targeted school environment(s).	STUDENTS Actively engage in development of positive relationships with their peers.
Element b: Occupation	al therapists demonstrate	respect for diversity with	in the home, school, and lo	ocal and global
communities.	1	Γ	I	T
	and	and	and	and
THE OCCUPATIONAL THERAPIST Understands the importance of respect for student diversity.	THE OCCUPATIONAL THERAPIST Understands the importance of equal access to programs and facilities for all students.	THE OCCUPATIONAL THERAPIST Respects diversity in home and community and educates other about disability awareness and the importance of inclusion.	STUDENTS AND/OR FAMILIES Feel respected by the therapist.	STUDENTS: Respect the background of fellow students.
-	al therapists engage stude	nts as unique individuals v	with diverse backgrounds,	interests, strengths,
and needs.	and	and	and	and
		··· unu		
THE OCCUPATIONAL THERAPIST Identifies each student's strengths, interests and needs.	THE OCCUPATIONAL THERAPIST Establishes priorities and goals based on unique	THE OCCUPATIONAL THERAPIST Modifies interventions to reflect unique	STUDENTS: Participate actively in services provided by the occupational therapist.	STUDENTS: Achieve the goals collaboratively established for them by school staff members, IEF
	student interests, strengths and needs.	student interests, strengths and needs.		teams, and their families.

Basic	Partially Proficient	Proficient (Meets State Standar	d) Accomplished	Exemplary
	al therapists engage in pro and other significant adult		structive communication and	work collaboratively
with students, fammes, 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 wi students, familie and other significant adults promote sharing pertinent information. and/or support acces	th therapist. s to	STUDENTS AND/OR FAMILIES: Appropriately share relevant information that may impact student performance with an understanding of confidentiality.
acceptable student beha	vior, efficient use of time,	and appropriate beha	avioral strategies.	and
THE OCCUPATIONAL THERAPIST Provides expectations that guide student behavior.	THE OCCUPATIONAL THERAPIST Modifies services in response to student behavioral needs.	THE OCCUPATIONAL THERAPIST Creates an accessible learni environment wit expectations for student behavior that maximize us of service time w student.	se <b>STUDENTS:</b> Abide by established expectations during therapeutic activities.	STUDENTS: ☐ Stay on task during the provision of services.
	Required for Ratings of "B nd recommended for all ra		its of person being evaluated. for which the comment applie le.	

designed instruction	and/or create enviro			and/or specially udents.
Basic	Partially Proficient	Proficient (Meets State Standard)	Accomplished	Exemplary
	al therapists provide serv ocedures, academic stand			
	and	and	and	and
THE OCCUPATIONAL THERAPIST Is aware of standards, regulations and laws that impact occupational therapy practice in the educational setting.	THE OCCUPATIONAL THERAPIST Complies with timelines for state and federal legislation and local regulations and procedures.	THE OCCUPATIONAL THERAPIST Ensures documentation is aligned with federal and state laws and district policies. Develops measureable student goals based on Colorado academic standards.	STUDENTS AND/OR Families: Are aware that the larger organizational context governs the services they receive.	STUDENTS AND/OR FAMILIES: Participate in the development of student learning goals.
	services and/or specially		include valid informat an	u/or iormai
	and	and	and	and
THE OCCUPATIONAL THERAPIST Uses findings from program evaluation data to inform occupational therapy service delivery and specialized instruction.	THE OCCUPATIONAL THERAPIST □ Selects and/or uses formal and informal assessments for evaluation of services. □ Assesses environments in which student occupation occurs.	<ul> <li>THE         <pre>OCCUPATIONAL         <pre>THERAPIST             </pre>         Determines             occupational             therapy service             needs based on             evaluation data and             educational team             discussion.         Appropriately             interprets and             shares evaluation             data with team.</pre></li></ul>	STUDENTS: □ Actively participate in the evaluation process.	STUDENTS AND/OR FAMILIES: Contribute to the data collection process by identifying data sources and/or information relevant to them.
integrate multiple source	al therapists plan and con es of data to inform pract	ices related to student ne		
academic standards and	individualized student go	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	THE OCCUPATIONAL THERAPIST Provides services in alignment with individual education programs	STUDENTS: Participate in educationally challenging activities based on therapist's use of	STUDENTS AND/OR FAMILIES: Set individual goals based on for students based on evaluation findings and student needs.

	-		l/or monitor services	
designed instruction	n and/or create envir		e learning for their st	udents.
Basic	Partially Proficient	Proficient (Meets State Standard)	Accomplished	Exemplary
			ailable technology in their	services and/or
specially designed instru	uction to maximize studer	r		Γ
	and	and	and	and
THE OCCUPATIONAL THERAPIST Uses appropriate technology supports as determined by the educational team.	THE OCCUPATIONAL THERAPIST Supports the use of appropriate technology to maximize student outcomes.	THE OCCUPATIONAL THERAPIST Selects, recommends, and trains teachers to use assistive technology or adaptive equipment to support student participation in the educational setting.	STUDENTS: Express preferences for adaptive equipment and/or technology verbally or non- verbally based on participation and ease of use.	STUDENTS: Use assistive technology/ adaptive equipment to support their learning and participation in the classroom.
	al therapists establish and thinking, self-advocacy, le		ctations for their students lving skills.	that support the
	and	and	and	and
THE OCCUPATIONAL THERAPIST Communicates high expectations for all students.	THE OCCUPATIONAL THERAPIST Sets individual student expectations/goals at a level that challenges students.	<ul> <li>THE OCCUPATIONAL THERAPIST <ul> <li>□ Collaborates with the educational team to develop goals ensuring that students are working toward high expectations.</li> <li>□ Provides opportunities for students to practice self-advocacy with functional tasks.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	STUDENTS: □ Respond positively to the therapist's expectations.	STUDENTS: Demonstrate problem solving skills to improve functional independence.
Element f: Occupationa	ll therapists communicate	effectively with students		·
	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>	THE OCCUPATIONAL THERAPIST Modifies communication based on student, emotional and ability level. Works with colleagues to improve understanding of and ability to communicate with students who have diverse needs.	STUDENTS Engage in multiple communication exchanges on identified topics.	STUDENTS Engage in multiple communication exchanges with peers and significant adults in their lives.

Basic	Partially Proficient	Proficient (Meets State Standard)		Accomplished	Exemplary
<b>Element g:</b> Occupation their professions.	al therapists develop and,	/or implement s	ervices and/o	or specially designed i	nstruction unique to
	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.	THE OCCUPATIO THERAPIST Effectively implement activities th prepare stu for engage the least re environme Uses a vari service del approaches student nee	s hat idents ment in strictive nt. iety of ivery s to meet	TUDENTS: Transfer activities learned in out-of- context settings to the least restrictive environment or context.	STUDENTS: Are prepared to participate effectively in planning transitions.
	Required for Ratings of "I	Basic" or Co	mments of pe	erson being evaluated.	
"Partially Proficient" a levels).	nd recommended for all r	0	ment for whic ndard as a wl	ch the comment applic hole.	es if not for the

Basic	Partially	Proficient	Accomplished	l Exemplary	
	Proficient	(Meets State Standard)	-		
Element a: Occupation what they learn to impr	al therapists demonstrate	that they analyze student	learning, development, ai	nd growth and apply	
what they learn to mpr	and	and	and	and	
	· · · anu	· · · anu	· · · anu	· · · anu	
THE OCCUPATIONAL THERAPIST Identifies methods and tools to collect student data.	THE OCCUPATIONAL THERAPIST Collects and uses student learning development, and growth data to inform practice.	<ul> <li>THE OCCUPATIONAL</li> <li>THERAPIST</li> <li>Analyzes a wide range of student data to design and implement services.</li> <li>Provides analyses based on expertise to the educational team.</li> </ul>	THE OCCUPATIONAL THERAPIST □ Synthesizes data from multiple students to inform and drive future practices.	THE OCCUPATIONAL THERAPIST Applies findings from data analys to improve practice.	
Element b: Occupation	al therapists link professio	onal growth to their profes	ssional goals.		
	and	and	and	and	
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THE OCCUPATIONAL THERAPIST Uses performance feedback from supervisor and/or colleagues to improve practice. Completes required professional development. Element c: Occupation	THE OCCUPATIONAL THERAPIST Develops a professional learning plan that builds on strengths and addresses areas in need of improvement. al therapists respond to co	THE OCCUPATIONAL THERAPIST Participates in professional development opportunities that support professional learning plan. mplex, dynamic environm and	THE OCCUPATIONAL THERAPIST Collects data on implementation of newly learned strategies and makes modifications to support student outcomes.	THE OCCUPATIONAL THERAPIST Develops and follows a long- term written professional development plan.	
	and	and	and	and	
THE OCCUPATIONAL THERAPIST Understands the complexity and dynamic nature of the work environment.	THE OCCUPATIONAL THERAPIST Seeks professional guidance to prioritize competing demands within the work environment.	THE OCCUPATIONAL THERAPIST Effectively prioritizes competing, demands within the work environment. Works to align student, teacher and	THE OCCUPATIONAL THERAPIST Recognizes and willingly responds to the fluid demands of the work environment.	THE OCCUPATIONAL THERAPIST Acts as an agent of change for the department and/o the LEA.	
	 Required for Ratings of "B nd recommended for all ra		of person being evaluated which the comment appl a whole.		

Quality Standard V	: Occupational therap	ists demonstrate colla	Quality Standard V: Occupational therapists demonstrate collaboration, advocacy and leadership.						
Basic	Partially Proficient	Proficient (Meets State Standard)	Accomplished	Exemplary					
Element a: Occupation	al therapists collaborate v	vith internal and external	stakeholders to meet the	needs of students.					
	and	and	and	and					
THE OCCUPATIONAL THERAPIST Identifies key stakeholders in the lives of students.	THE OCCUPATIONAL THERAPIST Collaborates with other professionals to support progress towards student outcomes.	THE OCCUPATIONAL THERAPIST □ Initiates professional dialogue with other school providers to gather various perspectives to meet the needs of students. □ Initiates and /or supports collaborative communication with families.	THE OCCUPATIONAL THERAPIST Integrates collaboratively shared information into services to benefit the student. Proactively shares own analyses of student needs with others.	THE OCCUPATIONAL THERAPIST Establishes ongoing partnerships with external stakeholders to support the needs of students.					
Element b: Occupation	al therapists advocate for	students, families, and sc	hools.						
	and	and	and	and					
THE OCCUPATIONAL THERAPIST Advocates for students.	THE OCCUPATIONAL THERAPIST Actively supports disability awareness at the school and district level.	THE OCCUPATIONAL THERAPIST Advocates for curricular, school climate and service improvements.	THE OCCUPATIONAL THERAPIST Plans and/or proposes educational programs for department and/or school staff which advocate for the needs of students.	<ul> <li>Families and other significant adults:</li> <li>□ Have knowledge of how to access advocacy support and resources for the benefit of the student.</li> </ul>					
Element c: Occupation	al therapists demonstrate	leadership in their educa	tional setting(s).						
	and	and	and	and					
THE OCCUPATIONAL THERAPIST Recognizes opportunities to develop leadership skills. Supports school goals and initiatives.	THE OCCUPATIONAL THERAPIST Makes contributions from an occupational therapy perspective to school or district teams.	THE OCCUPATIONAL THERAPIST Provides leadership to school-based teams in order to harness the skills and knowledge of colleagues.	THE OCCUPATIONAL THERAPIST Shares knowledge through mentorship of colleagues Confers with school administrators and/or supervisors to improve working and learning conditions.	<ul> <li>THE OCCUPATIONAL THERAPIST</li> <li>□ Assists other staff with interpretation of regulations and policies that impact school-based OT.</li> <li>□ Assumes additional duties and/or leadership roles in the department and/or school(s).</li> </ul>					

Quality Standard V: Occupational therapists demonstrate collaboration, advocacy and leadership.						
Basic	Partially Proficient	Proficient (Meets State Standard)	Accomplished	Exemplary		
Element d: Occupation	al therapists contribute k	nowledge and skills to edu	ucational practices and th	eir 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 the occupational therapy profession.		
Element e: Occupation	al therapists demonstrate					
	and	and	and	and		
THE OCCUPATIONAL THERAPIST Maintains confidentiality of student records as required by law. Upholds the professional Code of Ethics and Standards of Practice for Occupational Therapy. Evaluator Comments (B	THE OCCUPATIONAL THERAPIST Accepts responsibility for actions and decisions that affect student outcomes.	THE OCCUPATIONAL THERAPIST □ Follows district procedures for reporting unsafe or unethical practices. Basic" Comments of reports	THE OCCUPATIONAL THERAPIST Models respect for the dignity, privacy, and confidentiality of others within the working environment.	THE OCCUPATIONAL THERAPIST Promotes ethical standards of practice in the school and/or district teams.		
	and recommended for al		ich the comment applies			