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

## Definition of an Effective Physical Therapist

Effective school physical therapists are vital members of the education team. They are properly credentialed and provide professional expertise in the areas of mobility skills, postural and positioning, gross motor skills, self-help skills and foundational recreational skills for age-appropriate play. Effective physical 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 physical therapists facilitate achievement of student goals by implementing a plan of care that utilizes evidenced-based evaluation methods and intervention strategies. They design interventions to promote skill acquisition, accessibility within the school environment and participation in typical activities and routines. They understand the interconnectedness of the home, school and community and collaborate with all members of the education team to facilitate meaningful student participation. Through reflection, advocacy and leadership, effective physical therapists enhance the academic achievement and personal/social development of their students.



QUALITY STANDARD I Physical therapists demo	onstrate mastery of and ex	mertise in the domain for	which they are responsibl	0	
Basic	Partially Proficient	Proficient (Meets State Standard)	Accomplished	Exemplary	
	nerapists integrate eviden	ce-based practices and res	search findings into their s	ervices and/or specially	
designed instruction.	and	and	and	and	
THE PHYSICAL THERAPIST:	THE PHYSICAL THERAPIST:	THE PHYSICAL THERAPIST:	<b>STUDENTS:</b> □ Use learned skills	<b>STUDENTS:</b> <ul> <li>Generalize learned</li> </ul>	
☐ Identifies sources of evidence-based practices to obtain relevant current	Remains current on evidence-based practices to provide services to meet	Implements evidence-based strategies to meet the individual needs	in structured settings with support from significant adults.	skills to a variety of school environments with support from	
research. ELEMENT D: Physical th influences on student act		of students.	ctedness of home, school a	significant adults. and community	
	and	and	and	and	
THE PHYSICAL THERAPIST: Is aware of the interconnectedness of home, school and community and its impact on student learning.	THE PHYSICAL THERAPIST: Utilizes student, family and staff priorities and knowledge of their interconnectedness to develop the plan of care.	THE PHYSICAL THERAPIST: Provides resources and strategies to promote improved student participation in the home, school and community.	STUDENTS: Practice skills embedded in typical school activities and routines with support from staff or significant adults.	STUDENTS: Demonstrate improved participation as a result of the interconnectedness of home, school and community involvement in their care with support from significant adults.	
	and	and	and	and	
THE PHYSICAL THERAPIST: Holds a basic professional knowledge and expertise as a physical therapist.	THE PHYSICAL THERAPIST: Adheres to the standards of practice for physical therapy.	THE PHYSICAL THERAPIST: Delivers services that are meaningful to the student, centered on functional skills and lead to improved student learning.	SIGNIFICANT ADULTS: Support the student in activities to improve participation in school and community.	STUDENTS: Participate in the least restrictive environment and in therapeutic interventions to positively impact their role in the school and/or community with support from significant adults.	

QUALITY STANDARD I	
Physical therapists demonstrate mastery of and expertise in	the domain for which they are responsible.
Evaluator Comments:	Comments of Person Being Evaluated:
Please indicate the element for which the comment applies if	(Please indicate the element for which the comment applies if not for
not for the standard as a whole.	the standard as a whole):

## QUALITY STANDARD II

Physical therapists support and/or establish safe, inclusive and respectful learning environments for a diverse population of students.

Basic	Partially Proficient	Proficient (Meets State Standard) Accomplished		Exemplary
	nerapists foster safe and a vith caring adults and peer	ccessible learning environ s.	ments in which each stud	ent has a positive,
	and	and	and	and
THE PHYSICAL THERAPIST: Understands the importance of a safe, accessible and caring environment for students, staff and self.	THE PHYSICAL THERAPIST: Promotes the safety of students, staff and self in all interactions.	THE PHYSICAL THERAPIST: Collaborates with others to improve safety and accessibility within the school environment.	STUDENTS: Express comfort with the physical care they receive from significant adults using verbal and/or nonverbal methods.	STUDENTS: Safely access the school environment using identified supports and/or activity and environmental modifications with assistance from significant adults as needed.
<b>ELEMENT B:</b> Physical th	nerapists demonstrate res	pect for diversity within t	he home, school and local	and global communities.
THE PHYSICAL THERAPIST: □ Identifies diverse perspectives of students, families and the community in designing and implementing care.	<ul> <li>and</li> <li>THE PHYSICAL</li> <li>THERAPIST:</li> <li>Understands the importance of and recommends equal access to programs and facilities for all students.</li> </ul>	<ul> <li> and</li> <li>THE PHYSICAL THERAPIST:</li> <li>Educates others about disability awareness and the importance of inclusion.</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>and</li> <li>STUDENTS AND/OR</li> <li>SIGNIFICANT</li> <li>ADULTS:</li> <li>Express informed preferences for methods of inclusion.</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>and</li> <li>STUDENTS AND</li> <li>SIGNFICANT</li> <li>ADULTS:</li> <li>Facilitate student participation in educational opportunities with their peers with support.</li> </ul>

### **OUALITY STANDARD II**

diverse population of students. Proficient Basic **Partially Proficient** Accomplished Exemplary (Meets State Standard) **ELEMENT C:** Physical therapists engage students as unique individuals with diverse backgrounds, interests, strengths and needs. ...and ... and ... and ... and THE PHYSICAL THE PHYSICAL THE PHYSICAL STUDENTS AND/OR **STUDENTS:** THERAPIST: SIGNIFICANT THERAPIST: THERAPIST: □ Expand □ Identifies unique □ Establishes  $\Box$  Designs and **ADULTS:** participation in the student interests, priorities and goals modifies □ Understand the learning strengths and needs. based on unique interventions to importance of environment based student interests, reflect unique students' unique on their strengths interests, strengths strengths and needs. student interests, and interests with strengths and needs. and needs in support from significant adults. achieving goals. ELEMENT D: Physical therapists engage in proactive, clear and constructive communication and work collaboratively with students, families and other significant adults and/or professionals. ... and ... and ... and ... and THE PHYSICAL THE PHYSICAL THE PHYSICAL **STUDENTS AND/OR** STUDENTS AND/OR THERAPIST: THERAPIST: THERAPIST: SIGNIFICANT SIGNIFICANT  $\square$  Recognizes the □ Establishes □ Uses a variety of **ADULTS:** ADULTS: value of building methods to □ Willingly share □ Indicate preferences respectful relationships with relationships with information that communicate with and/or make students, families students, families may impact student choices regarding students, families and significant and significant and significant participation. functional adults. adults. adults to promote activities. sharing of pertinent information. **ELEMENT E:** Physical therapists select, create and/or support accessible learning environments characterized by acceptable student behavior, efficient use of time and appropriate behavioral strategies. ... and ... and ... and ... and THE PHYSICAL THE PHYSICAL THE PHYSICAL STUDENTS: STUDENTS: THERAPIST: **THERAPIST:** THERAPIST:  $\Box$  Abide by □ Demonstrate □ Recognizes the Establishes □ Implements established rules behaviors that need for rules to acceptable student effective strategies during functional positively guide student behavior that will to promote student activities and/or contribute to behavior in the improve access to engagement in therapy sessions. functional activities therapeutic setting. the learning functional activities and accomplishing environment and and/or therapy their goals with support from efficient use of sessions.. significant adults. time.

Physical therapists support and/or establish safe, inclusive and respectful learning environments for a

# QUALITY STANDARD II

Physical therapists support and/or establish safe, inclusive and respectful learning environments for a diverse population of students.

<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):

	Basic Partially Proficient (Meets State Stand		Accomplished	Exemplary
		and/or specially designed their districts' organized p		
	and	and	and	and
THE PHYSICAL THERAPIST: Understands the responsibilities of the physical therapist in the education system.	<ul> <li>THE PHYSICAL THERAPIST:</li> <li>Demonstrates knowledge of relevant organizational requirements.</li> <li>Meets required timelines for documentation and communication.</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>THE PHYSICAL</li> <li>THERAPIST:</li> <li>Manages and delivers services in accordance with federal, state and local plans and procedures and the needs of students.</li> <li>Assists colleagues in understanding and applying the state and federal laws and local plans and procedures.</li> </ul>	STUDENTS: Actively engage in physical therapy services to access educational opportunities.	STUDENTS: Participate in the least restrictive environment with support from significant adults

**QUALITY STANDARD III** Physical therapists plan, deliver and/or monitor services and/or specially designed instruction and/or create environments that facilitate learning for their students.

	Partially Proficient	Proficient (Meets State Standard)	Accomplished	Exemplary
	herapists utilize multiple s specially designed instruct	ources of data, which inclu	ide valid informal and/or i	formal assessments, to
morm services and or s	and	and	and	and
THE PHYSICAL THERAPIST: Identifies valid formal and informal assessment tools to inform practice.	THE PHYSICAL THERAPIST: Uses multiple assessments from formal and informal sources to determine participation level, limitations and personal and environmental limiting factors.	<ul> <li>THE PHYSICAL</li> <li>THERAPIST:</li> <li>Collaborates with team to guide services, goal development and intervention.</li> <li>Recognizes student needs that require referral to another professional.</li> </ul>	STUDENTS AND/OR SIGNIFICANT ADULTS: Contribute pertinent information to the evaluation process in order to guide program planning.	STUDENTS: Are fully and actively engaged in the assessment process.
	nerapists plan and consiste to inform practices related			
THE PHYSICAL	THE PHYSICAL	THE PHYSICAL	STUDENTS:	STUDENTS:
THERAPIST: Identifies intervention strategies based on explicit outcomes.	<ul> <li>THERAPIST:</li> <li>□ Determines method of intervention strategies based on student needs.</li> <li>□ Employs a variety of intervention strategies to achieve student outcomes.</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>THERAPIST:</li> <li>Monitors effectiveness of intervention and modifies as needed to improve student performance.</li> <li>□ Plans and prepares students for transitions into</li> </ul>	Participate in challenging activities based on skill level and interest.	Demonstrate progress towards student goals.

Basic	Partially Proficient	nt Proficient Accomplished		Exemplary
<b>LEMENT D:</b> Physical the signed instruction to restruction to rest	herapists support and inte maximize student outcome	grate appropriate available s.	e technology in their servi	ces and/or specially
	and	and	and	and
THE PHYSICAL THERAPIST: Identifies benefits of assistive technology or adaptive equipment to improve functional independence.	<ul> <li>THE PHYSICAL THERAPIST:</li> <li>□ Recommends assistive technology or adaptive equipment to facilitate student participation.</li> <li>□ Makes appropriate referrals for assistive technology needs.</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>THE PHYSICAL</li> <li>THERAPIST:</li> <li>Instructs students and others in the proper use of assistive technology or adaptive equipment.</li> <li>Identifies sources for obtaining, maintaining, repairing and financing assistive technology or adaptive equipment.</li> </ul>	STUDENTS AND/OR SIGNIFICANT ADULTS: Express preference for assistive technology or adaptive equipment based on participation and ease of use.	STUDENTS: Utilize assistive technology or adaptive equipment devices to improve access to the educational environment with support from significant adults.
	nerapists establish and con advocacy, leadership and p		ns for their students that s	support the developmer
THE PHYSICAL THERAPIST: Understands the importance of having high expectations for all students.	THE PHYSICAL THERAPIST: <ul> <li>□ Develops rigorous goals for student outcomes based on student, family and team priorities.</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>THE PHYSICAL THERAPIST:</li> <li>□ Chooses activities that provide an appropriate level of challenge.</li> <li>□ Provides opportunities for students to practice self-advocacy and/or problem solving during functional tasks.</li> </ul>	STUDENTS AND/OR SIGNIFICANT ADULTS: Are sufficiently knowledgeable to request environmental modifications or assistance for specific tasks.	STUDENTS: Demonstrate problem-solving skills to improve functional independence with support from significant adults.

**QUALITY STANDARD III** Physical therapists plan, deliver and/or monitor services and/or specially designed instruction and/or create environments that facilitate learning for their students.

Basic	r their students. Partially Proficient	Proficient	Accomplished	Exemplary
	erapists communicate effe	(Meets State Standard)	1	
ELEMENT F. Fliysical th	and	and	and	and
THE PHYSICAL THERAPIST: Recognizes the importance of a respectful and sensitive approach towards students to enhance communications.	THE PHYSICAL THERAPIST: Selects communication strategies including verbal, non-verbal and/or physical cues based on student needs.	THE PHYSICAL THERAPIST: Listens effectively and allows time for responses and discussion.	or Dunderstand written or oral instructions to assist in functional and/or therapeutic activities.	STUDENTS: Follow written, oral or other forms of communication to complete functional and/or therapeutic activities in a structured setting with support from significant adults.
<b>ELEMENT G:</b> Physical th professions.			/or specially designed instru	*
THE PHYSICAL THERAPIST: Understands task analysis in order to improve a student's access to education. Evaluator Comments: Please indicate the element not for the standard as a	<ul> <li>and</li> <li>THE PHYSICAL</li> <li>THERAPIST:</li> <li>Performs an acceptable task analysis or ecological assessment to inform planning and implementation of services.</li> </ul>	<b>upplies if</b> (Please indic	☐ Integrate recommendations to improve accessibility in the school environment.	implementation of recommended strategies.

<b>QUALITY STANDARD</b> Physical therapists reflect				
Basic	Partially Proficient	Proficient (Meets State Standard)	Accomplished	Exemplary
<b>ELEMENT A:</b> Physical they learn to improve th		t they analyze student lear	rning, development and g	rowth and apply what
	and	and	and	and
THE PHYSICAL THERAPIST: Identifies methods and tools to collect student data to inform practice.	THE PHYSICAL THERAPIST: Collects and compiles student data on learning, development and growth to inform practice.	THE PHYSICAL THERAPIST: Analyzes and interprets student data to determine the effect of physical therapy intervention on student outcomes.	THE PHYSICAL THERAPIST: Collaborates with others regarding student performance in multiple school settings to determine effects of physical therapy intervention.	THE PHYSICAL THERAPIST: □ Reflects on the adequacy of the data to inform practice and seeks and uses other information sources as necessary.
<b>ELEMENT B</b> : Physical th	erapists link professional			and
THE PHYSICAL THERAPIST: Uses performance feedback to improve practice.	<ul> <li>THE PHYSICAL</li> <li>THERAPIST:</li> <li>Identifies areas of needed growth and learns new skills to improve professional practices.</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>and</li> <li>THE PHYSICAL</li> <li>THERAPIST:</li> <li>Engages in evidence- based professional development activities that address student needs and meet professional goals.</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>and</li> <li>THE PHYSICAL THERAPIST:</li> <li>Applies newly learned knowledge and skills to decision-making about professional growth and goals.</li> </ul>	<ul> <li> and</li> <li>THE PHYSICAL THERAPIST:</li> <li>Develops and follows a professional development plan.</li> </ul>
<b>ELEMENT C</b> : Physical th	nerapists respond to comp			-
THE PHYSICAL THERAPIST: Considers the larger learning environment when providing required services documented in the IEP/504.	<ul> <li>and</li> <li>THE PHYSICAL</li> <li>THERAPIST:</li> <li>Understands the nature of the larger environmental context in which services are provided.</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>and</li> <li>THE PHYSICAL THERAPIST:</li> <li>Demonstrates flexibility and adjusts priorities based on changing student and team needs.</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>and</li> <li>THE PHYSICAL</li> <li>THERAPIST:</li> <li>Collects and disseminates information about changes in the environment for team use in decision-making.</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>and</li> <li>THE PHYSICAL</li> <li>THERAPIST:</li> <li>Is aware of and responds to changing conditions at the national, state, or local level in order to provide effective services.</li> </ul>
not for the standard as a	nt for which the comment whole.	-	<b>Person Being Evaluated:</b> e the element for which the c s a whole):	omment applies if not for
Quality Standard V Physical therapists demo	onstrate collaboration, adv	ocacy and leadership.		
Basic	Partially Proficient	Proficient (Meets State Standard)	Accomplished	Exemplary
<b>ELEMENT A:</b> Physical th	nerapists collaborate with	internal and external stak	ceholders to meet the need	ls of students.

	and	and	and	and
THE PHYSICAL THERAPIST: Understands the importance of collaboration to meet student needs.	THE PHYSICAL THERAPIST: Initiates dialogue with colleagues to exchange professional perspectives.	THE PHYSICAL THERAPIST: Establishes and maintains an ongoing collaborative relationship with students to meet individual needs.	THE PHYSICAL THERAPIST: Collaborates with significant adults to meet student needs.	THE PHYSICAL THERAPIST: Collaborates with community resources to support students, families and significant adults.
ELEMENT B: Physical tr	nerapists advocate for stud	and	and	and
THE PHYSICAL THERAPIST: Identifies student, family and school needs.	THE PHYSICAL THERAPIST: Contributes to teams that advocate for student outcomes.	THE PHYSICAL THERAPIST: Advocates for changes related to the physical therapy department and/or district policies that will promote student outcomes.	THE PHYSICAL THERAPIST: Connects students, families and significant adults to school and community resources based on student needs.	THE PHYSICAL THERAPIST: Confers with administrators to recommend practices to promote accessibility and reasonable accommodations in the school environment.
<b>ELEMENT C:</b> Physical th	nerapists demonstrate lead			and
THE PHYSICAL THERAPIST: Recognizes opportunities to develop leadership skills.	<ul> <li>and</li> <li>THE PHYSICAL THERAPIST:</li> <li>Implements established physical therapy program practices to promote professionalism considering school specific priorities.</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>and</li> <li>THE PHYSICAL</li> <li>THERAPIST:</li> <li>Assists school staff         <ul> <li>in identifying                  appropriate                 physical therapy                 referrals.</li> </ul> </li> <li>Contributes to         developing and         improving physical         therapy service         delivery.</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>and</li> <li>THE PHYSICAL</li> <li>THERAPIST:</li> <li>Supervises and evaluates the implementation of physical therapy services within the school and/or district.</li> <li>Provides expertise to develop information resources and support safe student evacuation and injury prevention.</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>and</li> <li>THE PHYSICAL</li> <li>THERAPIST:</li> <li>Seeks physical</li> <li>therapist inclusion</li> <li>in decision making</li> <li>and educational</li> <li>reform based on</li> <li>expertise and</li> <li>knowledge of</li> <li>student, school and</li> <li>district needs.</li> </ul>

Basic	Partially Proficient	Proficient (Meets State Standard)		Accomplished	Exemplary
ELEMENT D: Physical t	herapists contribute know	· · ·		ional practices and their p	rofession.
	and	and		and	and
THE PHYSICAL THERAPIST: Shares knowledge and skills with other staff.	THE PHYSICAL THERAPIST: Implements effective consultative strategies.	THE PHYSICAL THERAPIST: Conducts professional development sessions for staff, students and families to support their involvement in therapy.		THE PHYSICAL THERAPIST: Develops program practices to promote professionalism and guide physical therapy services.	THE PHYSICAL THERAPIST: Participates in professional meetings to furthe physical therapy practice.
<b>ELEMENT E:</b> Physical tl	l nerapists demonstrate hig				
	and	and		and	and
THE PHYSICAL THERAPIST: Maintains confidentiality of student information as required by law.	THE PHYSICAL THERAPIST: Demonstrates ethical behavior, including honesty, integrity, fair treatment and respect for others.	APIST:THERAPIST:monstratesImage: Upholds ethicalical behavior,standards ofuding honesty,practice as definedby the Americanby the Americantiment andPhysical Therapy		<ul> <li>THE PHYSICAL THERAPIST:</li> <li>□ Models ethical standards of practice within the working environment.</li> </ul>	THE PHYSICAL THERAPIST: Promotes ethical standards of practice within school, departmen and/or district teams.
Evaluator Comments: Please indicate the eleme not for the standard as a	ent for which the comment whole.	applies if	-	<b>Person Being Evaluated:</b> the element for which the co a whole):	omment applies if not for