



## **Expanding Roles for OT and PT in School-Based Practice**

**AB 2386: A Workgroup of Stakeholders  
*Study the Impact and Requirements for an  
OT and PT School Services Credential***

# **OTAC School Services Credential Webinar**

**May 30, 2018**

## **School-Based Practice Subcommittee Co-Chairs**

**Julie Bissell**, OTD, OTR/L, ATP, Anaheim Elementary School District

**Lisa Test**, OTD, OTR/L, Los Angeles Unified School District

## **OTAC Legislative Advocacy Team**

**Sabrina McCarley**, MBA-SL, OTR/L, CLIPP, RAC-CT,  
OTAC Advocacy & Government Affairs Committee Chair

**Jennifer Snyder**, MPH, Capitol Advocacy/Lobbyist

**Ivan Altamura**, JD, Capitol Advocacy/Lobbyist



# Working Hard on Your Behalf

## **OTAC MISSION**

To be the collective voice that serves, promotes, and supports the profession of occupational therapy and its practitioners.

- Advance and Secure the Profession
  - Protect Members

# Webinar Goals

- Update on the AB 2386 workgroup to explore a school services credential for OT
- Unite OTs in California school-based practice
- Dispel myths with facts
- Call to action

# School Services Credential for OTs and PTs in California Public Schools

## PROBLEM

### School-Based OT & PT Professional Goals

- Enhance roles for OT and PT
- Professional equity
- Career advancement
- Influence education system

## PROCESS

### OTAC + CPTA (OTs & PTs) Capitol Advocacy, Lobbyists

- Partner with CPTA
- Relationship building with Commission on Teacher Credentialing (CTC)
- Stakeholder support
- Address union opposition
- Legislative action

## NEXT STEPS

### Ways to Take Action

- Explore credential options
- Activate OTs and PTs
- Meet legislators
- Letters, calls, emails, and tweets in support
- Survey 2018
- Study impact
- Legislative action

# AB 2386 - Passed Assembly Education Committee Held on Suspense by Assembly Appropriations Committee

## A Workgroup to Explore an OT/PT Services Credential in California Public Schools



This bill would have required the CTC to **convene a workgroup** to consider whether the development of a services credential with a specialization in OT and PT services is warranted and, if so, to make recommendations for specified requirements.

As of May 25, 2018, AB 2386 is no longer an active bill for this year. OTAC and CPTA will continue to pursue the formation of a CTC workgroup to study the school services credential impact and options.

## OTAC continues its efforts to form a CTC workgroup to explore an OT and PT services credential with representatives from:

1. Occupational Therapy Association of California
2. California Physical Therapy Association
3. Labor union representing certificated employees
4. Labor union representing classified employees
5. School administrators
6. Educational institutions that have OT or PT degree programs (at least two)
7. California Department of Education
8. Special Education Local Plan Area
9. Additional members

# OTAC 2016 OT Survey Results

## Plans for New OTAC School Survey 2018-2019

Estimates: 16,000 OTs in CA (CBOT)  
20% Work in Schools (AOTA)

### School-Based OTs in CA

Approximately 3,200

2016 Survey: n = 510 (statistically representative sample)

87% in favor of school services credential

74% interested in an option to consider leadership roles



# OTAC 2016 OT Survey Results

## Plans for New OTAC School Survey 2018-2019

### Research Needed to Verify OT Needs and Impact of a School Services Credential Employment Status 2016

(2016) n = 510 (statistically representative sample)

- Classified: 32% (165)
- Classified management: 14% (73)
- Certificated, non-credentialed: 18% (90)
- Agency contract: 18% (91)
- Self-employed: 5% (26)
- Other: 9% (43) (charter school, certificated-credentialed via another field, academia)
- No response: 4% (22)

# Who has a credential in California Public Schools?

## YES

IDEA (20 U.S.C. Section 1401(26))

**NOTE: All related services except OT and PT**

Teachers  
Speech Therapists  
School Psychologists  
Counselors  
Social Workers  
School Nurses  
Audiologists

## NO

Paraprofessionals  
Instructional Assistants  
Bus Drivers  
Maintenance, Plumbers  
Electricians  
School Clerks  
Cafeteria Workers  
OT and PT

# California OT/PT School Services Credential

OT and PT curricula already meet the majority of requirements for the basic services credential. **Grandfathering has been suggested** by the CTC and will be discussed by the workgroup. A basic credential is needed to set a uniform standard and is required in order to be able to apply for an administrative credential.

# California School Employees Association (CSEA)

## Myths vs. Facts

**Myths: This legislative bill does none of the following:**

1. Put OT jobs under attack.
2. Result in OT salary cuts.
3. Lead to districts replacing in-house OTs with contract OTs.
4. Cause employees to lose retirement status. **Fact check:**

<https://www.calpers.ca.gov/>

<https://my.calstrs.com>

**Note: CSEA – Classified Union represents and estimated < a third of OTs in school-based practice.**

**Fact: AB 2386 would mandate a workgroup.**

# Consider Services Credential Core Issues

1. Statewide, long-term advancement of two related service professions in the schools.
2. Hiring is up to the local school district (LEA) or special education local plan area (SELPA).  

Understand core issues, organizational structures, and your ability to negotiate locally.
3. Fact check information being disseminated, e.g. CSEA.
4. Prioritize YOUR (OT and PT) opportunities for professional growth.

# Act Now - Dispel Myths

Be knowledgeable:

- A school services credential **DOES NOT** dictate hiring practices. It **DOES** open doors for **OT leadership** and **greater influence** in the educational system as well as **increased career opportunities**.
- **Hiring practice is controlled by the local LEA or SELPA** administration approved by the school board with a wide variation in configurations.
- There is a shortage of OTs and PTs statewide. Districts negotiate salaries, stipends, vacation days, benefits, and retention incentives.

# Update on School Credential Initiative

AB 2386 is held on Assembly Appropriations Suspend and is no longer an active legislative bill this year. However OTAC and CPTA are moving forward to explore options in support of a CTC OT/PT school services credential workgroup. OTAC continues to work with the CTC, school-based OTs, stakeholders, and Assembly Member Rubio to support OTs and PTs who work in the public schools.

Stay tuned via email, the OTAC website, Facebook, and Twitter for updates and more information on the School Credential Initiative.

# Join us at the OTAC 2018 Annual Conference

## Important Interactive School-Based Practice Session

### Expanding Roles for OT in School-Based Practice

Parts of this presentation will discuss the School Credential Initiative history, the legislative process, 2018 practitioner survey results and the future of OT in school-based practice.



**Pasadena Convention Center**

**Saturday, October 27 – 10:00 a.m to 11:30 a.m.**

**\*Registration information will be available online early August: [otaconline.org](http://otaconline.org)**



# Professional Gains Outweigh Challenges / Change Unite and Take Action for School-Based Practice





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# OTAC School Services Credential Initiative Committee

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Julie Bissell, OTD, OTR/L, ATP, Anaheim Elementary School District

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**Questions?** Email us at [gachr@otaonline.org](mailto:gachr@otaonline.org) or [execdir@otaonline.org](mailto:execdir@otaonline.org)