



Talking Points

- OTs, PTs and stakeholders support the School Credential Initiative (See results of OTAC CPTA Survey)
- A School Credential opportunity for OT PT is long overdue and the time is right.
- “Best fit” for OT and PT - Clinical or Rehabilitative Services Credential
- The California Department of Education (CDE) supports the OT PT Credential Initiative. (See letter of support).
- An opportunity to hold a basic credential will empower the future of OT and PT in school-based practice and will allow for increased opportunity in leadership and administration.
- Employment opportunities for occupational therapists (OT) and physical therapists (PT) in the California public school system are currently not consistent with the level of professional OT and PT preparation (Masters and Doctorate level) i.e. OTs and PTs are not eligible to apply for a multitude of administrative positions due to a lack of a basic credential.
- Hiring practices vary with each Local Education Agency (LEA) – School District and Special Education Local Plan Area (SELPA).
- Due to lack of a credential, some OTs and PTs are often placed in the Classified category with CSEA Union representation. OT and PTs have voiced that they feel that the CSEA is not equipped to properly represent the professions of OT and PT.

- **Talking Points**
- The Classified Union primarily represents school district labor workers such as food service professionals, maintenance and operations, office and administrative assistants, paraeducators-instructional assistants, and student transportation bus drivers. (See CSEA-Classified Employees brochure).
- The CESA is concerned about losing members (32% of 3,200 total estimated school based OTs in California public schools = +- 1,000). In the big picture this is a small number of members.
- Credential would be a requirement for all therapists employed in the public school system.
- Seeking an author for a legislative bill to codify a credential requirement.
- Actively communicating with CTC to inform OTAC and CPTA intention.

OTAC OT Survey Results

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

School-Based OTs in CA

Approximately 3,200

n= 510* Statistically representative sample

87% in favor of school credential

74% interested in leadership roles

Employment Status

- 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)