



**Occupational Therapy Association of Oregon  
K-12 School Advocacy Work Group**

June 10, 2019

To All School-Based Occupational Therapy Practitioners:

We've talked about workload vs caseload; we've talked about the use of OTA's in the schools; we've talked about not being at the table when our districts make what does not seem to be common-sense decisions. Right now, events are coming together for Oregon's school-based OT practitioners to define Oregon's future of school occupational therapy practice.

**“Occupational therapists need to take their advocacy to the local level.”**

Senator Arnie Roblan, District 5, Coos Bay, April 12, 2019, OTA Legislative Day, Salem - talking about Student Success Act (<http://www.osba.org/News-Center/Announcements/2019/20190513SSA.aspx>)

Take this, and add:

1. AOTA's push for the Distinct Value of Occupational Therapy in Today's Schools (Member Appreciation webinar, April 2019)
  - Occupational therapy providing Tier 1 and Tier 2 (or MTSS) supports to supplement traditional therapy.
2. AOTA's BEST PRACTICES for Occupational Therapy in Schools, 2019 edition
  - OTPF-3 (OT Practice Framework-3) – Communicating OT in Schools
  - Best Practices Through Everyday Advocacy
  - The Future of the School Occupational Therapy Practice
3. Representative Susan McLain sponsoring Workload versus Caseload Guidelines bills for us twice now. This needs to continue; but again, how do we bring this to the local level?
4. Evidence-based practice regarding the use of occupational therapy assistants
5. And, ideas/actions that our therapists in the State are already doing. In our conversation Senator Roblan, he stressed evidence-based and promising practice. We need to be sharing our successes!

We need you. OTA wants to bring together a work group of occupational therapy practitioners to create a product that demonstrates OT's distinct value in

the K-12 school setting.

- What will this look like? At this time, we don't know what our final format will be, possibly a white paper. (Do we have a doctoral student who wants a project?)
- Who is our intended audience? Will it be school therapists, administrators, or both?
- How do we communicate?
  - Right now, we have a Facebook page (OR OT K-12 Advocacy Project).
  - Our [www.OTAO.com](http://www.OTAO.com) website has an info page (homepage > Quick Links on right > K-12 Advocacy).
  - OTAO members can go to the K-12 Committee (login as member > My Community (under/over from name badge) > My Features > Committees. Here we can see the list of members, we can share files, and we can message each other.
  - We are already planning a K-12 Advocacy session and roundtable discussion at OTAO's annual conference (October 4-5). Jo Flomer and I are going to share Tier 2 handwriting and proprioceptive calming corner programs that we have put in place, as well as share progress from this work group.

Every school therapist that I talk to says that we (someone) need to do something. This project is too big for any one person, any one group. With this, I am throwing it out there for you to come to the table to help us. I don't know how, or what, this will look like at completion. I just know I want a product in hand by the 2020-2021 school year.

Right now, join the Committee if you are a member of OTAO. Members/non-members – join the Facebook group if you are on Facebook. For others, email your interest (we will continue to look for other/better ways to communicate). For questions, suggestions, or thoughts, please feel free to email me at [jcuciti@cbmcs.com](mailto:jcuciti@cbmcs.com).

In advance, I thank you and look forward to working with you.

Jan Cuciti, OTR/L, MBA  
Past-President, OTAO  
School-based OT