

## Occupational Therapy Caseloads in Schools

I am a retired Occupational Therapist who worked in the school setting (0-21 year old) providing evaluations and programs for students with severe physical disability, learning disability with motor or sensory processing issues and multiple disabilities with motor concerns. I worked in Portland or Central OR. From 1993-2014. The school programs were funded by county, state and federal money and I was hired by individual schools and ESDs.

Over the years the caseloads became so unmanageable that I was forced to develop therapeutic groups (wide range of needs) and provide training to staff instead of providing a direct service model. We provided equipment which was helpful to students as well.

When students would transfer to OR. from out of state the OT service dropped by 50-75% due to funding. The families involved would frequently be frustrated and angry and continue to demand high frequency contact from the OT. This along with huge caseloads was very stressful for OTs wanting to do a good professional job.

Please consider these high caseloads and adopt guidelines from other states for OT caseload caps or adequate funding.

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