

Understanding the Differences Between School Therapists and School Teachers

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	School Therapist	Teacher
Role	Practitioner	Educator
Purpose	Diagnose and Treat Patients	Impart Knowledge
Degree needed to begin working	PT: MA or Phd in Physical Therapy OT: MA in Occupational Therapy SLP: MA-CF in Speech Language Pathology	Elementary Teacher: BA in Elementary Education Secondary Teacher: BA in Secondary Education
License Renewal and Continuing Education (CE) Requirement	<p>PT: Varies by State - from no CE requirement up to 30 state approved CE Hours or Credits for each 2 year license renewal. For your state's specific requirements click here.</p> <p>OT: Varies by State - from no CE requirement up to 40 state approved CE Professional Development Units or Hours for each 2 year license renewal. For your state's specific requirements- click here.</p> <p>SLP: 30 Certification Maintenance Hours (CMH) every 3 years to maintain ASHA Certification - additional license renewal requirements vary by state. For your state's specific requirements click here.</p>	<p>Varies by State - but most states use some kind of progressive licensing system where new grads are given a 5 year "limited" license, during which they need to complete anywhere from 60-175 state approved professional development hours and gain 3 years of classroom experience in order to earn the next level or "permanent" license.</p>
Supervision	<p>PT: Provides supervision for Physical Therapy Assistants. PTA can only practice under the supervision of a licensed PT.</p> <p>OT: Provides supervision for Certified Occupational Therapy Assistants. COTA can only practice under the supervision of a licensed OT.</p> <p>SLP: Provides supervision for new SLP graduates with Clinical Fellowship License (MA-CF). After 1260 practice hours and and 12 hours of mentoring, new graduate SLPs are eligible for their Certificate of Clinical Competence (CCC).</p>	<p>Teacher: Provides supervision for student teachers.</p>
Instructional Group Size	One on One or Small Group	Large Group
Instructional Meeting Frequency	Weekly or Monthly	Daily