

What is the role and responsibilities of an adapted physical education specialist?

The role and responsibilities of the adapted physical education specialist include but not limited to assessing and identifying an individual's needs; collaborating or consulting with other service providers; and providing direct Adapted Physical Education service.

Legal Reference: 5 CCR sec. 3051.5(b) and sec. 56320(f)(g).

Discussion: An Adapted Physical Education specialist is part of the multidisciplinary assessment team whose responsibilities include **assessing and identifying** a child's needs in the area of movement skills. To accomplish this, the Adapted Physical Education specialist must choose appropriate assessment methods and instruments; administer the assessment; interpret the data; describe the present level of performance; and recommend the appropriate physical education service based upon the student's identified needs.

Adapted Physical Education specialists **provide consultation to and collaborate with** teachers, assistants/aides, parents, administrators, and other professionals. Examples of other professionals include, but are not limited to, physical therapists, occupational therapists, speech and language pathologists, special education teachers, orientation and mobility specialists, teachers of the visually impaired, hearing impairment specialists, assistive technology specialists, psychologists, school nurses, and recreation specialists.

Adapted Physical Education specialists **provide direct adapted physical education service** to students, identified through the individual education program (IEP) team process, who need specialized instruction. Appropriate goals and objectives/benchmarks are included in the student's IEP. Progress toward goals and objectives/benchmarks are reported at the same frequency as progress is reported for non-disabled peers.

Best Practice: Through appropriate assessment and interpretation of data, the needs of the student, goals and objectives are identified. Children with disabilities often receive services from several teachers and specialists. Through consultation and collaboration among these professionals, the quality of instruction and intervention tends to be enhanced as information and strategies are shared.