

IS A CAREER AS A SCHOOL-BASED PHYSICAL THERAPY PRACTITIONER RIGHT FOR YOU?



WHAT IS A SCHOOL-BASED PHYSICAL THERAPY PRACTITIONER?

A Physical Therapy Practitioner (PTP) in schools helps students who struggle with things like sitting, standing, balancing, or even basic coordination and movement. The main goal of a school-based PTP is to help students participate in school activities, get ready for future jobs, and build skills to live as independently as possible.

WHAT DOES A SCHOOL-BASED PHYSICAL THERAPY PRACTITIONER DO?



Work with students to:

- Identify challenges that make it difficult to move around the school and participate in activities and learning.
- Create and carry out plans to improve skills like walking, jumping, and running so they can take part in school and life activities.
- Help get devices, equipment, and technology they need.



Work with educators and families to:

- Teach strategies that help students move safely, feel comfortable, and stay focused.
- Provide training on how to adjust the classroom or home setting.
- Use equipment or follow physical activity plans to help the student throughout the day.

YOU MIGHT ENJOY THIS CAREER FIELD IF YOU LIKE TO:

- Help others improve their physical abilities and achieve their goals.
- Stay active and participate in physical activities.
- Learn about the human body and how movement works.
- Make a positive impact on people's lives by helping them gain independence and confidence.

VOICES FROM THE FIELD: MEET A SCHOOL-BASED PHYSICAL THERAPY PRACTITIONER

The profession is great because it's so diverse...there's something for everyone!

AnnMarie Stauffer
School-Based Physical Therapist
Lancaster-Lebanon IU13

Scan or click the
QR code to watch
the interview.



HOW TO BECOME A SCHOOL-BASED PHYSICAL THERAPY PRACTITIONER IN PENNSYLVANIA:

To become a school-based physical therapy practitioner, a college education, including a doctorate and licensure are required.

Educational Requirements:

Earn a bachelor's degree in a relevant field such as exercise science, kinesiology, or biology. A specific major isn't required, but a strong foundation in the sciences will help.

Note: Programs may offer freshman entry into a guaranteed admissions program. Accepted students automatically advance into the professional phase of the Doctor of Physical Therapy (DPT) program, pending the completion of specific courses and meeting requirements, e.g., minimum GPA.

Obtain a Doctor of Physical Therapy (DPT) Degree from a program accredited by the Commission on Accreditation in Physical Therapy Education (CAPTE).

<https://www.capteonline.org/programs/accredited-physical-therapy-programs>

Obtain Licensure:

Pass the [National Physical Therapy Exam \(NPTE\)](#) after earning your DPT degree.

Apply to the [Pennsylvania State Board of Physical Therapy](#) for state licensure.

