



The Advocate
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Given the number of individuals who continue to reach out about challenges in the public schools, and the ongoing confusion about APE service delivery, the Advocacy Committee has decided that it was in our best interest to make an NCPEID position statement regarding APE services that is targeted towards administrators. During the development of the position statement, we will approach the American Physical Therapy Association, American Occupation Therapy Association and National Association of State Directors of Special Education about their willingness to endorse the statement. It is hoped that engaging with these national associations and having them assist with dissemination of the position statement will reduce the number of misunderstandings specific to APE services in the schools (e.g., Physical Therapists being asked to deliver APE services to students with disabilities).

The Advocacy Committee is also working with Dr. Garth Tymeson as follow up to his interactions with the Office of Special Education Programs regarding a Dear Colleague Letter. Part of issue exposed during Dear Colleague Letter interactions is that data collected for Congress still lumps therapeutic recreation and physical education together. We (NCPEID) have asked for this data collection issue to be addressed in the past and will ask again as this data is important to Congress as it considers IDEA Discretionary Funding.

Suzanna Dillon continues to serve NCPEID's interests on the Communication Committee of the National Coalition on Personnel Shortages in Special Education and Related Services (NCPSSERS; <https://specialedshortages.org/>). Through our involvement in the NCPSSERS, we (NCPEID) were involved in communications to the US Senate HELP Committee regarding topics and questions to be asked of Dr. Miguel Cardona, President Biden's nominee to lead the U.S. Department of Education.

Finally, Andy Columbo-Dougovito is spearheading a pitch to The Conversation (USA) on the topic of Adapted Physical Education. We are following up with them to see how we might be able to start a national education conversation about APE for students with disabilities and increase awareness and knowledge about our profession.