

CAPCSD April 15th 2008 Tarpon Springs, FL
SUMMARY OF FEEDBACK FROM PRESENTATIONS on “Essential Functions”:

Present uses of “Essential Functions Checklist”:

Some programs have already implemented essential functions.
Some have created own list others have implemented the list developed by CAPCSD and listed on website last year. Present uses described:

- Setting and outlining expectations for incoming grad students
- Publishing on program web site
- Sending to accepted students
- Having accepted students sign them indicating they acknowledge knowing about them and believe they have these skills.
- To counsel students who are in program and demonstrating some challenges

Needs expressed by individuals attending the presentation

- Continued need for defined process in how to implement
- Also need to be able to use particularly with individuals with learning disabilities and mental illness that emerges during the course of the program.
- Want CAPCSD to define a list that they “endorse” as essential functions.
- Want CAPCSD to collect data from existing programs that are using the essential functions and vet the lists and possible uses.
- Would like CAPCSD and ASHA to work together to pass an agreed upon list and possible reasonable expectations.
- It was reported that AOTA and APTA have both approved a list of “essential functions” so that all programs set same expectations.

Next Steps?

CAPCSD to commit to a final step in essential functions....vet existing information, publish final list and outline recommended uses.

CAPCSD work with ASHA to publish accepted or endorsed use similar to AOTA and APTA
CAPCSD to develop and present both a list and an outline of how to implement

NOTE:

- Many programs seem uncomfortable with the idea of using the list as a resource to design their own “essential functions”, but want a list that has the strength/support of ASHA behind it.
- There seems to be little discussion about the controversy or concerns around the “essential functions” as it relates to possible discrimination, but several programs reported that members of faculty “balked” when they were presented with the idea of implementing “essential functions” criteria.