

SPECIAL EDUCATION LAW



California

Music Therapy

2014

Music Therapy was added to the California Code of Regulations, Title 5 in May 2014. Specifically, Article 5, Section 3051.21 defines music therapy and clarifies personnel qualifications.

“According to the Certification Board for Music Therapists, **Music therapy is the specialized use of music by a credentialed professional** who develops individualized treatment and supportive interventions for people of all ages and ability levels to address their social, communication, emotional, physical, cognitive, sensory and spiritual needs.”

“Music therapy shall be provided only by personnel who hold a **Music Therapist – Board Certified credential from the Certification Board for Music Therapists (CBMT)** on the completion of all academic and clinical training requirements, and after successfully passing the CBMT National Board Certification Examination.”

Music therapy is one of many related services which may be required to assist a student with a disability to benefit from special education, at no cost to the family. However, music therapy can only be added to a student's Individualized Education Program (IEP) after **1) a music therapy eligibility assessment has been conducted by a Board Certified Music Therapist to determine if the service is educationally necessary, 2) results are discussed with the IEP team, and 3) recommendations have been agreed upon.**