

# CAREERS IN SPECIAL EDUCATION

Ventura County Special Education Local Plan Area (SELPA)  
[www.venturacountyselpa.com](http://www.venturacountyselpa.com) click "available jobs"

## CERTIFIED OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY ASSISTANT (COTA)



**Typical Duties:** A COTA works under the supervision of an Occupational Therapist assisting in screening and implementation of therapy goals. A COTA may work on fine motor skills such as handwriting and cutting, or other strategies to assist students to tolerate the sensory environment. The setting may be a general or special education classroom, or other school environment. A COTA may work one on one with individual students or in small groups.

**Education:** COTA programs involve two years of study, as well as licensure with the state licensing board.

**Typical Pay:** In Ventura County, typical pay for a COTA is \$16.00-\$29.00/hour.

**Benefits:** All school districts have excellent health benefits as well as retirement plans. School employees usually work ten months per year, but in Special Education there is sometimes an option for additional work (4-5 weeks) in the summer.

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