



# STATE OF NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

A Memo from the New Jersey Department of Education

Date: April 23, 2020

To: Chief School Administrators, Charter School and Renaissance School Project Leads, Administrators of Approved Private Schools for Students with Disabilities

Route To: Directors of Special Services

From: Peggy McDonald, Ed.D., Assistant Commissioner  
Division of Student Services

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Office of Special Education

## **Celebrating Children with Autism Spectrum Disorder: Practical Resources During a Pandemic**

Every April, schools throughout New Jersey participate in schoolwide and community activities to commemorate Autism Awareness Month. Although the COVID-19 global pandemic has resulted in the closure of school buildings, the New Jersey Department of Education (NJDOE), in collaboration with school districts and our partner agencies, would like to take this time to highlight the many resources available to support teachers and families during this period of social distancing and remote learning.

This list of resources was developed in order to offer guidance to parents, families and professionals on how to provide support to individuals with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) in New Jersey during this pandemic. This guidance is an overview of national, state, and local resources and is designed to provide real-time resources for individuals with ASD.

For additional resources on educating students with disabilities, including Autism Spectrum Disorder, please visit the NJDOE Office of Special Education [resources page](#).

### **Educator Resources**

- The Autism Helper - [How You Can Raise Awareness in Your School](#)
- IRIS Center - [Autism Spectrum Disorder: Overview for Educators](#)
- Rutgers/BOGGS Center - [Information and Resources Related to COVID-19](#)

### **Parent Resources**

- Autism Focused Resources & Modules - [Supporting Individuals with Autism Through Uncertain Times](#)
- Autism New Jersey - [COVID 19 and Autism in NJ](#)
- NYC Early Childhood Mental Health Webinar - [Supporting Families and Caregivers of Infants and Young Children Affected by the COVID-19 Pandemic](#)
- Autism Speaks - [Priorities for the Autism Community During Times of Crisis](#)
- Center for Parent Information & Resources - [Parent Resources During COVID-19](#)
- NTACTION - [Transition Resources During COVID-19](#)
- SPAN - [COVID 19 Information Page](#)
- HelpGuide - [Helping Your Child with Autism Thrive](#)
- Very Well Health - [6 Autism Therapies Parents Can Provide in Their Own Home](#)

**Contact Information**

For more information, contact the NJDOE's Office of Special Education at [OSEinfo@doe.nj.gov](mailto:OSEinfo@doe.nj.gov) or call (609) 376-9084.

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