

Announcement of Opportunity for Participation in Arizona Statewide Autism Project (AzSAP)

*An Innovative Project in Cooperation with
Arizona Department of Education, Early Childhood Education Unit
Exceptional Student Services & STAR® Autism Support*



Pre-K / Elementary

To meet the needs of students with developmental disabilities, including autism spectrum disorder (ASD)

LEARN EVIDENCE-BASED STRATEGIES

GAIN valuable resources for implementing a **COMPREHENSIVE CURRICULUM**

INTEGRATE inclusive practices with **PROVEN EFFECTIVE INSTRUCTIONAL STRATEGIES**

Application Deadline: 6/15/15

Return the attached application to:
ECEInBox@azed.gov

You are invited to participate in an innovative project during the 2015 - 2016 school year designed to increase early childhood/K-3 school district team's capacity to work effectively with children with developmental disabilities, including autism spectrum disorder (ASD) during the critical years of brain and behavior development.

Participants will consist of up to 10 members from Local Education Agency teams.

One elementary and one pre-K site should be represented, including at least:

- one administrator
- one early childhood special education teacher
- one K-3 special education teacher
- one general education teacher
- one related service provider
- two teaching assistants or paraprofessionals (one from each selected pre-K or elementary site)

Participating teams will learn effective instructional strategies for teaching students with developmental disabilities, including autism spectrum disorder in a high quality early learning environment. Teams are encouraged to identify a related service staff or special education teacher designated as a "district coach" to increase capacity of districts for sustainability of the project.

Professional development will include the following:

- *3-day workshop for background and a strong emphasis on evidence-based teaching strategies and practices for children with developmental disabilities, including autism spectrum disorder*
- *5 visits of individualized on-site coaching and support per classroom team (10 total days per LEA)*
- *1-day collaboration and transition planning*
- *Administrator and related service staff resources*

Each LEA team of 10 members will also receive two sets of the following free materials:

- *STAR Program Combination Kits*
- *DT Essentials Reinforcement Kit*
- *Routine Essentials Visual Package*
- *Extensive resources and support materials*

The Local Education Agency's responsibilities include:

- *A commitment to participate in the entirety of the project.*
- *Hiring of substitute teachers and payment of travel expenses for team members.*
- *\$4500.00 (this is a partial contribution to cover the cost of the project). **Please note: this monetary contribution can be written into IDEA Grant applications and will be approved by the ADE.***

One focus of this project will be to increase reading proficiency for students with special needs in grades 3 through 8. Districts with an identified need in this area are encouraged to apply.

Applications will be reviewed by committee based on submission date, geographical location, number of students with ASD, number of students with ASD being served and demonstrated needs.

Training to be Provided by STAR® Autism Support

STAR® Autism Support has extensive experience providing school districts effective tools to implement evidence-based strategies and to train and coach school teams in these strategies. SAS provides workshops, training and support to school districts throughout the United States, Canada and Europe. SAS has successfully collaborated with school districts, private agencies, parents and the broader community to implement successful programs for students with autism.



The STAR Program is a comprehensive behavioral program that incorporates the applied behavior analysis strategies of: Discrete Trial Training, Pivotal Response Training and Teaching Functional Routines. STAR also promotes the use of positive behavior interventions, environmental supports (visual supports, visual schedules, etc.) in inclusive and self-contained settings.

Eligibility to Participate:

1. Be a state funded early childhood site and/or K-3 school program working with children with developmental disabilities, including autism spectrum disorder (either diagnosed or suspected).
2. Come as a School Team (as previously specified) with a commitment to full participation in the project.
3. Team will agree to mandatory attendance at a 3 day workshop and 5 follow up coaching visits and one district workshop.
4. Team will agree to provide feedback/evaluation on training and program implementation, as well as complete a pre-training and post-training competency self-checklist.

Complete the following application and participation agreement

APPLICATION

School District: _____ Urban | Suburban | Rural | Tribal

Name of Nominated Site #1: _____

Name of Nominated Site #2: _____

Administrator/Director: _____

Administrator/Director Email Address: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Telephone #: _____ Fax #: _____

Number of students identified or suspected of having ASD in the district _____

Number of students with ASD that the team is currently working with _____

Types of classrooms children with ASD are served

self-contained cross categorical

self-contained with peer models

inclusive settings (e.g. Head Start, General Education Classrooms, et. al.)

specialized classroom for children with autism

Identified Team Members (*at least 2 school sites should be represented*):

Name	Position	Email Address
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Lead Contact LEA Team: _____ Phone #: _____

Email: _____

Please describe your program's current services for students with developmental disabilities, including autism spectrum disorder. Include what settings your students with ASD are served in (e.g. cross categorical classroom, self-contained autism classroom, general education classrooms/inclusive).

Explain why your district needs this professional development for students with ASD.

Preferred Workshop Dates

(this three day initial training will be held in the Phoenix area)

Please rank possible dates (1-2, with 1 being the most desirable) for the initial three day training. ADE will notify you which date you were assigned to attend.

- July 29, 30, 31
- October 21, 22, 23

PARTICIPATION AGREEMENT

_____ agrees to provide school team participation as identified in the
Admin Initials (Name of School District) application for the entirety of the project.

_____ Our school district agrees to send the identified Team to the three day professional
Admin Initials development event. Team members also agree to and will be available for all
on-site coaching days.

_____ As a director of the school district named above, I have informed the chosen Team of the
Admin Initials mandatory three days of professional development and additional professional
development/on-site coaching at dates to be determined.

_____ Agree to evaluate student outcomes throughout the project and after the project ends
Admin Initials with a focus on reading proficiency.

_____ As part of this collaborative effort, professional development, materials and on-site
Admin Initials coaching will be provided at minimal cost to the Districts who participate. The District's
responsibilities include the School Team's commitment to participate in the entirety of
the project, the District hiring of substitute teacher and payment of travel expenses for
team members and a contribution of \$4500.00 (which can come from IDEA grant funds).

_____ Agree that grant funds may be discontinued at any time if the assurances are not being
Admin Initials met, and will reimburse the ADE for all grant costs (e.g., training, registration, travel).

Name of Administrator

Signature of Administrator

Date Signed

* Cancellation Policy: If you receive notification that your application has been selected to participate in this opportunity, you must notify ADE in writing at ECEinbox@azed.gov of your intent to decline participation 60 days before the first day of your scheduled training date. Any cancellations after the 60 day period will not be honored and the district will be held responsible for all costs.