State and Community Agencies for ASD Support

Office of Special Education Services, SC Department of Education
1919 Blanding Street
Room: B128
Columbia, SC 29201
Phone: (803) 734-5454

SC Department of Disabilities and Special Needs – Autism Division
Phone: (803) 898-9609

Family Connection of SC
Family Information Center
Toll Free: 1-(800)578-8750

Autism Academy of SC
505 Blanding Street
Columbia, SC 29201
Phone: (803) 929-0011

SC Autism Society
806 12th Street
West Columbia, SC 29169
Phone: (803) 750-6988
Toll Free: 1- (800) 438-4790

Project HOPE
2131 Woodruff Rd. Suite 2100-358
Greenville, SC 29607
Phone (864) 676-0028

Early Autism Project
2580 Lin-Do Ct, Sumter, SC 29150
Phone: (803) 905-4427

Many agencies have satellite offices and offer services throughout the state.

SC Office of Special Education Services (OSES)

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Director of Special Education Services
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The SC State Department of Education
Office of Special Education Services

Autism Spectrum Disorders

A Parent's Guide: Definitions, Support, and Resources

Provided by the State Department of Education Office of Special Education Services

What are Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD)?

•Autism is a developmental disability, generally evident before age three, which adversely affects a student's educational performance and significantly affects developmental rates and sequences, verbal and non-verbal communication and social interaction and participation.

•Other characteristics often associated with autism are unusual responses to sensory experiences, engagement in repetitive activities and stereotypical movements and resistance to environmental change or change in daily routines.

•Students with Autism Spectrum Disorders vary widely in their abilities and behavior. The diagnosis of Autism, in the school setting, does not apply if a student's educational performance is adversely affected primarily because the student has an emotional disorder.

http://ed.sc.gov/scdoe/assets/file/programs-services/173/documents/43-243_1EligibilityCriteria.pdf.

My child has an ASD. What can I do?

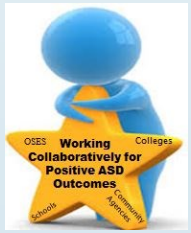
- Remember that your child is still a valuable person. Having ASD means that your child may need extra support in order to be successful academically and socially.
- This may be a confusing time. Take time to process the information you have received. Ask questions and take notes to read later on.
- Ask for contact information from anyone who had a role in finding diagnosing your child, or finding your child eligible for services as a student with an Autism Spectrum Disorder. You may want to speak with them at a later time once you have had time to take in the initial information.
- Do not feel guilt, or blame. ASD cannot be prevented. Instead educate yourself and find support for you and your family.
- Find support for all members of the family. An ASD diagnosis can bring stress and anxiety for parents and siblings. Talk with each other about your feelings, fears, and hopes.
- Be sure of the educational rights of your child. Find resources in this pamphlet to gain more information.

The Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA)

The Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) is a federal law ensuring services to eligible children with disabilities throughout the nation. IDEA governs how states and public agencies provide early intervention and special education and related services to infants, toddlers, children and youth with disabilities.
(http://ed.sc.gov/districts-schools/special-education-services/parent-resources/)

IDEA assures that children who have disabilities that hinder their ability to learn receive a free and appropriate public education (FAPE). The OSES supports the school, or Local Education Agencies (LEA) to provide appropriate services according to the Individual Education Program. The State Ombudsman can assist with questions regarding legal rights, working with the school IEP team, and understanding the processes of special education services.

Ombudsman
Phone: 803-734-2833



The **OSES Autism Spectrum Disorders Task Force** works with experts to learn more about ASD and support educators, parents and the community.