



State of New Jersey

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
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JAMES E. MCGREEVEY
Governor

WILLIAM L. LIBRERA
Commissioner

October 2004

Dear Parents, Educators and Partners:

The New Jersey Department of Education is pleased to provide to families, educators and the community interested in the education of young children with autism the ***New Jersey Autism Program Quality Indicators***. The purpose of this technical assistance document is to serve as a guide to parents and educators engaged in quality improvement of the education for students with autism spectrum disorder (ASD).

The ***New Jersey Autism Program Quality Indicators*** were developed by the Autism Task Force which included parents of students with autism and experts from the fields of education, medicine and psychology. I would like to thank all of the participants for their input, dedication and commitment to this document.

The challenge of the panel was to identify research-based indicators found in programs with outcomes of educational success for students with autism. The result is a document designed for parents and educators describing factors that should be taken into consideration in developing, implementing and evaluating a program and in the development of Individualized Education Programs for students with autism. Indicators for program quality were then determined by the panel under factors, such as personnel, curriculum, methods and community collaboration. The factors and indicators support inclusion and accessibility of diverse and multiple paths for student achievement based on research findings and best practice models.

The result is a technical assistance document to assist parents and educators in setting a standard for accountability in the design and implementation of educational programs for students with autism in our schools.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "W. Librera".

William L. Librera, Ed.D.
Commissioner

WLL/IB/BG
Enclosure

c: Dwight Pfenning
Senior Staff

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