

## Minnesota Autism Project and Network

The Minnesota Department of Education, Division of Special Education funds a statewide training and technical assistance project for Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD). The Minnesota Autism Project is hosted by the Metro ECSU to provide support and expertise to help meet the unique and special needs of students with Autism Spectrum Disorders.

**Goal of the MN Autism Project:** To build the capacity of staff, districts and regions to provide a full array educational services for all students with Autism Spectrum Disorders.

### MN Autism Project Activities

This technical assistance and training project assists schools by enhancing services to students with ASD through a wide variety of activities including:

- Coordination of activities with all Regional LI Projects in the state through the Minnesota Low Incidence Project.
- Autism Networks that are developed and supported in all regions of the state.
- Promising Practice training opportunities.
- Advanced training provided to staff and regional teams throughout the state.
- Development of [Resource Materials, a Library and Promising Practice documents](#).
- Collaboration with institutes of higher education (IHE's) on development of advanced training in ASD, On-line training materials and the annual Autism Symposium for Educators.
- Teacher Mentoring Project to support teachers who are new to the field of ASD.
- MN First Signs Project interagency collaboration to promote earlier screening for ASD.

This Autism Project has been developed in collaboration with the Regional Low Incidence Projects in response to common needs and is responsive to emerging identified needs following a continuous improvement model. A critical element of this Project is the statewide **Minnesota Autism Network** that consists of 60 staff representing all eleven Planning Regions in Minnesota. Representatives from all Regions participate in the statewide in the State Autism Network. Staff on these regional teams are available to provide technical assistance and training to local districts in all regions of the state. Statewide, this Project has annually provided advanced training in ASD for more that 10,000 staff and responded to more than 2,000 requests for technical assistance.

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