



STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

A Memo from the New Jersey Department of Education

Date: September 24, 2020

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

Route To: Special Education Directors and Principals

From: Kim Buxenbaum Psy.D., Director, Office of Special Education
Division of Student Services

Professional Development for Educators of Students with Autism Spectrum Disorders

The New Jersey Department of Education's Office of Special Education is pleased to inform school districts of a two-day interactive virtual conference that provides high-quality, autism-specific educational content, strategies and resources. The 38th Annual Autism Conference, hosted by Autism New Jersey, will be held on Thursday, October 15, 2020 and Friday, October 16, 2020. Virtual presentations will cover critical topics for parents and professionals with information and resources that are evidence-based and address all ages and support needs.

A variety of topics will be discussed, such as:

- Self-care to prevent burnout;
- COVID-19's impact on service delivery;
- Racial disparities in autism spectrum disorder (ASD) diagnosis and intervention;
- School refusal;
- Social skills development;
- Addressing challenging behavior;
- Communication skills; and
- Promoting independence.

To obtain more information about this event and its offerings for school personnel, please click on [this link](#). Additional details can also be found by visiting autismnj.org, where you will find a full listing of resources for educators and families.

c: Members, State Board of Education
Kevin Dehmer, Interim Commissioner of Education
NJDOE Staff
Statewide Parent Advocacy Network
Garden State Coalition of Schools
NJ LEE Group