



STATE OF NEW JERSEY
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

A Memo from the New Jersey Department of Education

Date: April 13, 2022
To: Chief School Administrators, Charter School and Renaissance School Project Leads, Approved Private Schools for Students with Disabilities, Principals, Nonpublic School Administrators
Route To: District Directors of Special Education and Pupil Services Administrators
From: Kathleen Ehling, Assistant Commissioner
Division of Educational Services
Deadline: May 13, 2022

Autism Awareness Month

Every April, schools throughout New Jersey participate in schoolwide and community activities to commemorate Autism Awareness Month. In support and recognition of students with autism spectrum disorder (ASD), the New Jersey Department of Education's Office of Special Education, promotes awareness of ASD during the month of April as an opportunity for educators, students, and parents to learn more about ASD.

The Office of Special Education has created a theme to help encourage and support ASD awareness in schools. This year's theme for Autism Awareness Month is *Helping the Pieces Fit*. The theme encourages schools to take part in fostering ASD awareness to promote understanding and acceptance for individuals with ASD in their schools and surrounding communities. It also encourages schools to celebrate the diversity, and unique contributions individuals with ASD make daily in the classroom.

Participating schools can share the unique ways they are promoting ASD awareness and *Helping the Pieces Fit* by submitting stories and pictures to the Office of Special Education's Quarterly Newsletter ([Special Education in Action](#)). Participating schools will have an opportunity to be highlighted in an upcoming Office of Special Education Newsletter and Spotlight.

Contact Information

To share your Autism Awareness activities for a chance to be featured in *Special Education in Action*, please email a brief summary explaining how you celebrated to Amanda.Philp@doe.nj.gov by Friday, May 13, 2022.

c: Members, State Board of Education
Angelica Allen-McMillan, Ed.D., Acting Commissioner of Education
NJDOE Staff
Statewide Parent Advocacy Network
Garden State Coalition of Schools
NJ LEE Group