



STATE OF NEW JERSEY

# DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

A Memo from the New Jersey Department of Education

Date: March 22, 2023

To: Local Educational Leads, Approved Private Schools for Students with Disabilities, Nonpublic School Administrators

Route To: Principals, District Directors of Special Education, Pupil Services Administrators, Teachers, Child Study Team Members

From: Kathy Ehling, Assistant Commissioner  
Division of Educational Services

Deadline: May 5, 2023

## 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 (NJDOE) Office of Special Education (OSE) is promoting 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 *Colors of My World*. 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 *Colors of My World* 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](mailto:Amanda.Philp@doe.nj.gov) by Friday, May 5, 2023.

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