

## DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

A Memo from the New Jersey Department of Education

Date: March 26, 2025

To: Local Educational Agency Leads

- Route To: District Directors of Special Education, Principals, Assistant/Vice Principals, Special Education Teachers, Child Study Team Members
- From: Kathy Ehling, Assistant Commissioner Division of Educational Services

## Second Annual Autism Acceptance Virtual Art Expo Spotlight The Spectrum

Every April, schools throughout New Jersey participate in schoolwide and community activities to commemorate Autism Acceptance 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) promotes acceptance and awareness of ASD during April as an opportunity for educators, students, and parents to celebrate students on the spectrum.

The OSE has curated over 270 original artworks from students from over 50 districts across New Jersey with autism and their allies for the 2<sup>nd</sup> annual autism acceptance virtual art expo. This year's theme, "Spotlight the Spectrum," highlights and celebrates our students across the State. The NJDOE OSE invites you to celebrate our students on the spectrum by visiting the virtual art expo throughout the month of April.

## Accessing the Virtual Art Expo

To access the virtual art expo, please go to <u>artsteps.com</u>. The art show is interactive, and visitors are encouraged to walk around the exhibit and interact with each piece of art by clicking on the picture.

## **Contact Information**

Please direct questions to the Office of Special Education at OSEinfo@doe.nj.gov.

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