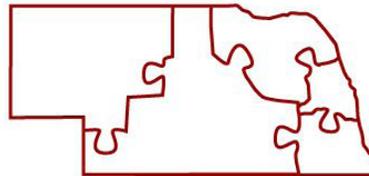
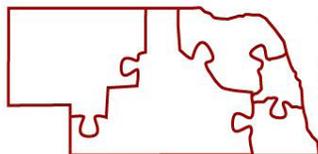


S.T.E.P.S.

**Strategies and Techniques for
Effective Practice:
Educating Children with Autism**



**Nebraska Autism
Spectrum Disorders**
N • E • T • W • O • R • K



**Nebraska Autism
Spectrum Disorders**
N • E • T • W • O • R • K

WHAT IS S.T.E.P.S.?

The STEPS program was conceptualized in an effort to enhance the educational programs and outcomes of students with ASDs by providing training and support to educators and administrators through a partnership between the Nebraska ASD Network and Nebraska schools.

Students with ASDs display a wide range of strengths and needs that must be considered when planning their educational program. The STEPS program was conceptualized to provide systematic, thorough training related to educational programming for students with ASDs. Initial training content, together with mentored, hands-on experiences related to assessment, selecting interventions and implementing interventions for children with ASDs are based upon current research and best practices.

COMPREHENSIVE

The framework of the STEPS program has been developed on the foundation of instructional design for students with ASDs. Program content was developed to incorporate comprehensive, up-to-date information related to empirically-validated and best practice techniques.

ONGOING

Participants will take part in various training opportunities for one year. Throughout that year, an ASD Network team member will serve as a mentor providing ongoing feedback and support as the participant implements new strategies and techniques.

EFFECTIVE

Research indicates that multiple exposures, opportunities to practice and active involvement following initial training are crucial elements of effective training. The STEPS program was developed to address the need to provide full-scope training.

Administrative support is also an important element in establishing effective programs for students with ASDs. The STEPS program has been developed in collaboration with Nebraska special education administrators and will include opportunities for administrators to gain important knowledge related to effective programming for students with ASDs.

S.T.E.P.S. PARTNERS

THE ASD NETWORK WILL...

- Provide comprehensive training and resources emphasizing foundational and comprehensive knowledge and mentored experiences in designing effective educational programs for students with ASDs
- Work collaboratively with participant school district to support STEPS training in their district
- Provide assistance with program assessment and planning to identify program components and practices to target
- Work collaboratively with participants and team members through regularly scheduled meetings toward the achievement of identified goals
- Provide a mentor for each participant site
- Provide reimbursement of registration fees for attending the ASD Network annual state conference

THE SCHOOL DISTRICT WILL...

- Develop a collaborative relationship with the ASD Network to support STEPS training opportunities
- Provide ongoing leadership and administrative support to STEPS participant
- Provide time and support for participant to attend STEPS training, as well as time to plan and implement techniques they have learned in their classrooms

THE PARTICIPANT WILL...

- Be employed by Nebraska public school or educational service unit
- Have at least 2 years of experience working with students with autism
- Serve a student with an autism spectrum disorder during the time they participate in the STEPS program
- Collaborate with the target student's IEP team
- Be willing to lead training opportunities as requested by district following participation in the STEPS program
- Be committed to enhancing programs for students with autism by participating in and completing all aspects of STEPS training

S.T.E.P.S. TRAINING TOPICS

- Assessment
- Collaboration
- Communication
- Sensory
- Social skills
- Transition
- Behavior
- Educational Strategies

PARTICIPANT APPLICATION (APPLICATION DEADLINE: FIRST FRIDAY IN MAY)

Name: _____

Job Title: _____

Home Address: _____

Years in Current Position: _____

Degrees: _____

Phone _____ Cell: _____

School: _____

School Phone: _____

Address: _____

Fax: _____

Preferred Email: _____

Current # of students with ASD: _____

I have/have not attended the ASD Network's full day Introduction to Autism workshop.

I understand that participation in STEPS requires ongoing workshop attendance as well as time for planning and implementation

Please list any ASD trainings you have attended:

Approximate # hrs. of previous training: _____

To be accepted in the STEPS program, you must receive administrative approval. Please have your administrator read and sign below:

I agree to collaborate with the ASD Network and provide the supports identified to support _____'s successful completion of the STEPS program.

Name: _____

Name: _____

Title: _____

Title: _____

Immediate Administrative Supervisor

Special Education Dir./Superintendent

APPLICATION (CONTINUED)

Please answer the questions below. You may attach up to 2 additional 8 1/2 x 11 pages.

1. Why do you want to be involved in the STEPS program?
2. What makes you an ideal candidate?
3. Describe how you will use the information learned in STEPS to help others improve services for students with autism spectrum disorders.
4. Describe content areas and/or specific approaches related to ASDs in which you have previously attended training. (ex. behavior, educational strategies, communication, social, PECS, SCERTS)

Applicant Signature _____

PLEASE INCLUDE YOUR RESUME OR DESCRIPTION OF PREVIOUS EXPERIENCE WITH YOUR COMPLETED APPLICATION.

*STEPS participants may apply for college credit. More information will be available at Orientation.

