



START Project Mission:

To work with schools, community partners, & families to support students with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) to become active, engaged members of their schools & local communities and successfully move into adulthood as independent individuals with many choices & opportunities.



How does START work with schools?

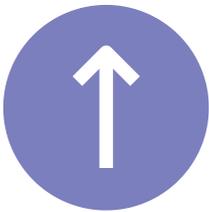
START provides training & resources to educators focusing on systems-level change to increase local capacity, promote collaboration within & across districts, & create a comprehensive model for serving students with ASD through the implementation of evidence-based practices in school environments.



How does START work with families?

START provides families with resources to promote understanding of ASD, to support their children in the home, in school and in their community, and to collaborate meaningfully with school staff as an equal member of their children's educational teams.

START Core Values



Capacity Building

Increasing the knowledge and skills of trainers, coaches, and teams to make systemic changes and utilize evidence-based practices to increase student success.



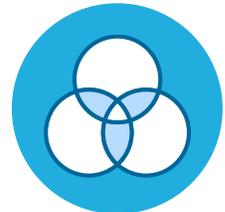
Inclusion

Establishing a community where everyone has a sense of belonging and the opportunity to live and learn alongside peers.



Collaboration

Working together with families, schools, community partners, and state initiatives to share ideas & resources, coordinate efforts, & improve outcomes for students.



Evidence-Based Practice

Ensuring our efforts to teach and support students are based on the best science and practice in order to achieve positive outcomes.

PRIMARY PROJECT ACTIVITIES



TRAINING & COACHING

- Intensive training and technical assistance to ISDs and local districts using a team-based approach.
- A coaching structure and coaching tools to support the implementation of evidence-based practices.

COLLABORATION & COORDINATION

- Regional Collaborative Networks (RCN) to provide the infrastructure for collaboration and coordination across school districts, with community stakeholders, and with families, allowing for shared training and resources.

RESOURCES

- Dissemination of evidence-based information, resources, and tools delivered through the START website, trainings, leadership days, and a statewide conference.

EVIDENCE-BASED DECISION-MAKING

- Use of evidence-based practices, professional judgement, and data to systematically address learning and behavior support needs, while respecting the strengths and preferences of the student and the family.

KEY ACTIVITY SPOTLIGHT: PEER TO PEER

Peer to Peer Support programs provide meaningful social opportunities for students with & without disabilities to meet, learn, & spend time together throughout the school day while receiving guidance from school staff. This evidence-based practice creates inclusive learning environments and changes attitudes leading to a more positive, accepting school culture.



START Project

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