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VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
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Autism Spectrum Disorders

A child may be found eligible for special education and related services as a child with autism if there is an adverse effect on the child's educational performance due to documented characteristics of autism and the child has any of the Pervasive Developmental Disorders, also referenced as autism spectrum disorder, such as Autistic Disorder, Asperger's Disorder, Rhett's Disorder, Childhood Disintegrative Disorder, or Pervasive Developmental Disorder – Not Otherwise Specified including Atypical Autism. Children with a medical diagnosis of autism spectrum disorders must be found eligible for special education and related services under IDEA before an Individualized Education Program (IEP) is developed. Children who are suspected of having a disability should be referred to their local school division for evaluation and to initiate the process for determining eligibility.

- [Autism Spectrum Disorders Resources](#)
- [Skill Competencies for Professionals and Paraprofessionals in Virginia Supporting Individuals with Autism Across the Lifespan](#) (PDF) - VDOE recognizes this publication for best practice in supporting individuals with autism. This publication, developed by the [Virginia Autism Council](#), includes a list of competencies for professional and paraprofessional staff in all fields of service delivery that are specific, unique, and/or critical to successfully serving individuals with an autism spectrum disorder. Virginia school divisions offer a full continuum of placements and services to students with an educational identification of autism.
- [A Parent's Guide To Special Education](#) (PDF) Also available in [Spanish](#) (PDF) – help for parents in understanding their rights and responsibilities, their children's rights, and the responsibilities of schools. This publication is currently under revision to reflect changes in state regulations.
- [Special Education - Information For Parents](#)

Division Training & Technical Assistance in Autism

The Virginia Commonwealth University Autism Center of Excellence (VCU ACE) is a new collaborative partnership between the Department of Education; the VCU School of Education, Department of Special Education and Disability Policy; the VCU School of Medicine, Department of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation; and the VCU Research Rehabilitation and Training Center. VCU ACE is dedicated to improving outcomes for students with autism by providing long-term training and technical assistance options for school divisions across the Commonwealth.

- [Virginia Commonwealth University Autism Center for Excellence \(VCU ACE\)](#)
- [VCU ACE Informational Webcast](#)
- [VCU ACE Handouts](#) (PDF)
- [ACE Technical Assistance Application](#) (PDF)
- [Opportunity for Division Training & Technical Assistance in Autism](#) - Superintendent's Memo #019-11, January 21, 2011

Technical Assistance Documents

Tools for educators, administrators and parents working to improve services for students with autism spectrum disorders (ASD) - created in collaboration with staff at the Virginia Commonwealth University Autism Center for Excellence (VCU ACE).

 [Guidelines for Educating Students with Autism Spectrum Disorders](#)
[Guidelines for Educating Students with Autism Spectrum Disorders](#) (PDF)

 [Models of Best Practice in the Education of Students with Autism Spectrum Disorders](#)
[Models of Best Practice in the Education of Students with Autism Spectrum Disorders](#) (PDF)



[Autism Spectrum Disorders and the Transition to Adulthood](#) (PDF)

Special Education
SPECIFIC DISABILITIES
MAIN

- Autism Spectrum Disorders
- Developmental Delay
- Emotional Disability
- Intellectual Disability
- Learning Disability
- Multiple Disabilities
- Other Health Impairment
- Orthopedic Impairment
- Sensory Disabilities
- Speech-Language Impairment
- Traumatic Brain Injury

Resources:
[Regulations Governing Special Education Programs for Children with Disabilities in Virginia](#) (PDF)
[Universal Design for Learning Disability Codes](#) (PDF)
[IDEA Legislation](#)

You May Also Be Interested In:
[Special Education Data Collection](#)
[Comprehensive Services Act](#)
[For Students & Parents](#)
[Virginia School for the Deaf and the Blind](#)

Information on this page is provided by the [Office of Instructional Support and Related Services](#).
Phone: 804-786-8079 or 804-225-2079.

[Staff Contacts](#)

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