

What is Autism?

Autism spectrum disorder is a complex developmental disability that is characterized by challenges with social skills, repetitive behaviors, speech and language. The term “spectrum” reflects the variation of challenges and strengths each individual child faces.

Where can I learn more about Autism?

Autism Speaks

<https://www.autismspeaks.org/>

Autism New Jersey

<https://www.autismnj.org/>

Parents of Autistic Children

<https://www.poac.net/>

Hunterdon Medical Center: The Child Development Center

<http://www.hunterdonhealthcare.org/service/children/child-development-center/>

How can I learn more about the program and my child’s progress?

(Please refer to the district calendar and school communications for specific dates)

- Back to School Night
- Parent Teacher Conference(s)
- Report Cards & IEP Progress Reporting
- Parent Clinics

When will school start/dismiss?

K-4: 8:55 a.m. - 3:35 p.m

RFIS: 8:17 a.m. - 2:55 p.m

JP Case: 8:15 a.m. - 2:54 p.m.

Where will my child go to school?

For children in grades K-4, the Autism program is offered at Copper Hill Elementary School.

For children in grades 5-6, the Autism program is offered at Reading-Fleming Intermediate School.

For children in grades 7-8, the Autism program is offered at JP Case Middle School.

If I have a question and/or concerns, who should I contact?

1. First, contact your child’s teacher.
2. If you should have a specific question related to your child’s IEP, contact the case manager.
3. If your question can not be addressed by the teacher or case manager, contact the building principal.
4. Contact the special services department should you need further guidance.

Department of Pupil Personnel Services and Special Education

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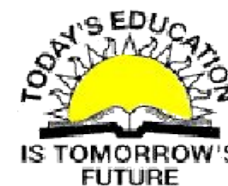
Fax (908) 284-7685

Visit the Department’s website online at:

<https://www.frsd.k12.nj.us>

Flemington-Raritan Regional School District

Special Class Program: Autism



District Mission Statement

The Flemington-Raritan Regional School District values children.

Together, **WE:**

Foster social, emotional, and academic growth in a safe and nurturing environment.

Respect values and traditions within our families and schools.

Strive to respond to the needs of our diverse and changing community.

Develop the curiosity and creativity of critical thinkers to become collaborative problem solvers who meet the challenges of a globally competitive society.

Every Student – Every Day – Every Opportunity

How can I support my child?

Parent involvement is a critical component of each child's education. Parents are a child's most influential teachers! Involvement may vary according to a child's program. Ongoing teacher-parent communication is vital to all of our programs. Parent Clinics are offered for Grade K through Grade 4 incrementally throughout the year.

Parents find value in attending clinics for these reasons:

- Discuss child's challenging home behaviors and problem solve a solution with the educator team.
- Discuss your child's achievements~ socially, academically and behaviorally within the school and home environments.
- Discuss any upcoming possible home challenges or events (i.e. field trips) that would require school support.
- Leave the clinic with notes taken by a team member for future reference.

Related Services: Related services are provided to those students who require services of: speech and language, occupation therapy, physical therapy, vision/hearing services and orientation and mobility. Therapy can be provided within the classroom, or in a pull-out setting. Teachers work cooperatively with therapists in order to assure continuity of individual programs.

Unique Aspects of the Program

All students will follow a typical building-based schedule and be exposed to grade level curricula with scaffolded supports. In addition to their typical schedule, students in program may expect:

- **Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA):** The goals of ABA therapy are to improve language capabilities and other communication skills, limit negative behavioral patterns, improve learning outcomes, and help develop social skills.
- Support from a district Board Certified Behavior Analysts (BCBA)
- **Discrete Trials:** (*if appropriate*) A method of teaching in simplified and structured steps. Instead of teaching an entire skill at one time, the skill is broken down and "built-upon" using discrete trials that teach small steps, one at a time.
- **Eden Curriculum:** Grounded in the principles of Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA) and focused upon essential skill areas such as: cognitive, self-care and domestics, speech and language, vocational, physical education, recreation and leisure, employment, and residential living
- **Explicit Social Skills Instruction:** *We Thinkers!* helps children build foundational social competencies and essential life skills through stories, lessons, and play activities.

How do we assess student progress?

Data collection in ABA is critical because it is the driving force behind all decisions made in an educational plan. When graphed, it provides a visual that shows overall progress. Based on the data in the graph, the IEP team can determine if progress is being made, or if there is a lack of progress, which indicates that a plan needs to be modified.

- **VB-MAPP Assessment (Verbal Behavior Milestones Assessment and Placement Program):** A criterion-referenced assessment curriculum guide and skills tracking system designed specifically for children with autism and other individuals who demonstrate language delay.s
- **FBA(Functional Behavior Assessment):** Looks at the reasons behind a child's behavior problems in order to improve behavior.
- **Eden Assessment:** Identifies a student's strengths and weaknesses, assists with goal selection, tracks progress, and makes it easy to translate the assessment into concrete IEP goals.

