

## Guiding Principles for Education and Community Supports and Services for Individuals with Autism Spectrum Disorders

- \* Do no harm.
- \* Listen to individuals with ASD and their families. Provide support, including assistive technology, to enable individuals with ASD to communicate their needs and preferences. Support individuals and families to participate in decisions concerning education and community supports and services.
- \* Provide identification and intervention as early as possible for children with ASD. Investment in early intensive treatment results in the best clinical outcomes and significantly reduces the lifetime cost of care associated with ASD.
- \* Recognize the dynamic and changing needs of individuals and families and assure that a seamless coordination of services and resources occurs across the lifespan.
- \* Assure that comprehensive and coordinated services are available to individuals and their families throughout the state.
- \* Assure that all individuals and families, including those with diverse cultural backgrounds, receive information and supports in accessible formats.
- \* Provide support to families in order for their children to live safely at home and in their communities.
- \* Provide resources to schools, communities, and families to ensure inclusive and meaningful participation in all environments.
- \* Adapt physical and social environments in school, service, and community settings to meet the needs of individuals with ASD and their families.
- \* Assure that all providers - medical, education, and human services - systematically assess progress and modify services and supports as needed to achieve individual and family goals.
- \* Provide quality pre-service and in-service professional development, mentorship, and ongoing consultation on the best practices for treating, educating, and supporting individuals with ASD.
- \* Support a workforce capable of meeting the needs of individuals with ASD and their families.
- \* Maintain high expectations for individuals with ASD and provide the education, supports, services, and opportunities necessary to achieve a meaningful life, including employment.