

# Arizona Statewide Autism Project (AzSAP)

The Arizona Statewide Autism Project (AzSAP) is an innovative project that began in 2012. The project focuses on the educational needs of students with significant learning challenges, including autism spectrum disorder (ASD). Now serving preschool, elementary, and secondary levels, the AzSAP focuses on supporting students in both self-contained and inclusive settings while developing training sites and coaches to increase state and local capacity.

## Project Collaborators

- » Arizona Department of Education Early Childhood Education Unit
- » Arizona Department of Education Exceptional Student Services
- » Local Arizona School Districts
- » STAR Autism Support, Inc.



## AzSAP Highlights

- **Workshops, training, and coaching** for preschool, elementary and secondary staff serving students with autism spectrum disorders and other developmental delays.
- **Evidence-based practices** and effective curricula appropriate for each grade level.
- **Capacity building** to develop coaches and training sites to ensure sustainability of practices.
- **Professional development** workshops and in-class coaching to address the needs of children in early childhood settings.
- **57 districts** have participated in the project since 2012.
- **Approximately 250 educators** attend workshops or in-class coaching opportunities each year.
- **Over 20 districts** have become training sites that coach others within their district for sustainability of project goals.
- **687 students** have been impacted by the project since autumn 2015.
- **Web-based resources** for general educators to promote inclusive practices for students with ASD.
- **Curriculum tools** available for project classrooms to ensure implementation fidelity, data-based decision-making, and measurement of student outcomes.

## Activities

### Professional Development Workshops

- Comprehensive workshops conducted at the beginning of each year
- Administrator training opportunities
- Training in each region of the state for staff in early childhood settings

### In-Class Consultation

- Series of consultation activities to ensure a high level of fidelity of implementation
- Concurrent coach training during in-class consultation visits

### Virtual Learning

- Follow-up webinars available to all workshop attendees
- Online course modules
- Lesson implementation video streaming

### Curriculum Tools

- Comprehensive curricula for preschool, elementary, and secondary students
- Access to online resources, including a library of visual supports, theme-based instructional units, and an electronic scheduling system

### Training Site and Coach Development

- Specific coach training opportunities
- Web-based resources and networking opportunities

