Autism Goes to College – How to Find Your Best Match

The Autism Training and Technical Assistance Project

The Autism Training and Technical Assistance Project (ATTA) develops and presents resources that assist individuals with autism in their transition from secondary education to postsecondary education or employment. ATTA provides training and support to important stakeholders as they work to provide an equitable experience for individuals on the spectrum.

icsps impacting educational equity

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The Illinois Center for Specialized Professional Support

The Illinois Center for Specialized Professional Support (ICSPS) creates, supports, and delivers professional development for education professionals across Illinois. ICSPS provides technical assistance, develops publications, and facilitates program improvement strategies for our partners as they relate to college transition, recruitment, retention, and completion—encouraging achievement of special populations learners. ICSPS was founded in 1977 at Illinois State University and is housed in the Educational Administration and Foundations department in the College of Education.

icsps impacting educational equity

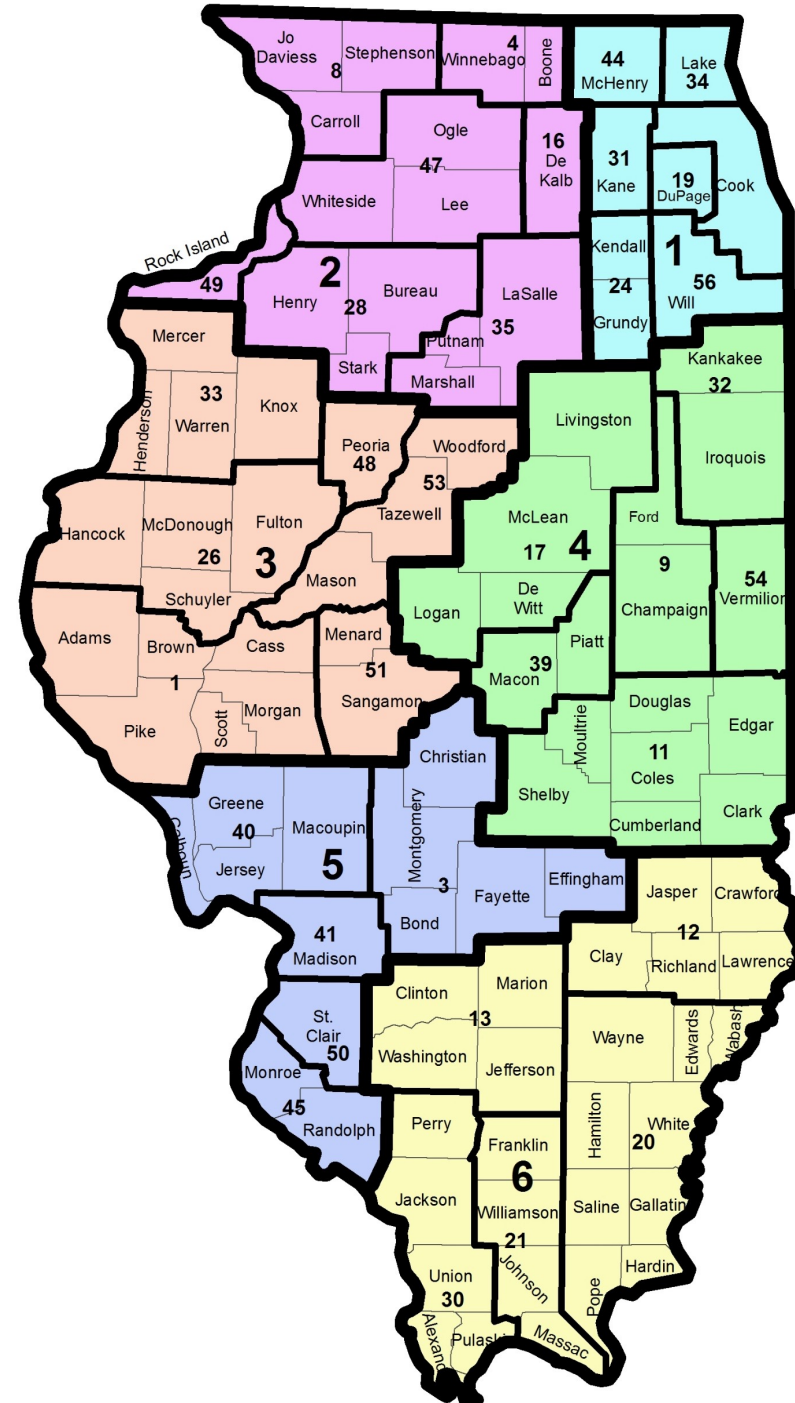AUTISM TRAINING AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PROJECT

Which Region are you Located in?

1. Chicago
2. Northeast
3. Northwest
4. East Central
5. Southwest
6. Southeast

Which ATTA Stakeholder do you Represent?

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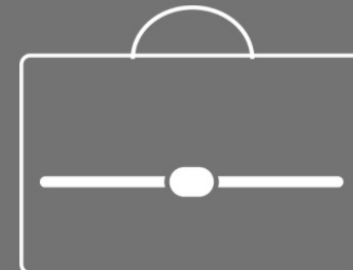| SECONDARY	STUDENTS / YOUNG ADULTS	POSTSECONDARY
COMMUNITIES	FAMILIES	EMPLOYERS

Presenter Information

Aime´e Julian and Brittany Boston

Illinois Center for Specialized Professional Support
Illinois State University

In 2022, autistic students have more options than ever before when it comes to specialized college programs. Autistic students who participate in these programs have more opportunities to thrive in college than those who opt for mainstream offerings. The additional support and encouragement they receive can make a big difference in their academic success as well as their overall college experience.

The following list is a representation of colleges and universities that offer programs specifically for students on the autism spectrum. In 2022, there are many opportunities for college students with autism to get the individualized support services they need to be academically and socially successful in college.

Top college programs designed specifically for students with autism:

1. Appalachian State University

2. Nova Southeastern University

3. Boston University

4. Drexel University

5. Eastern Michigan University

Top Colleges Continued…

6. Bellevue College

7. Eastern Illinois University

8. Fairleigh Dickinson University

9. Edinboro University

10. Beacon College

11. George Mason University

12. Rutgers University

13. University of Idaho

14. Marshall University

15. Western Kentucky University

16. Kent State University

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Tips for a successful transition…

Reach out and register with the college's disability services office. Registering with disability services provides a way for receiving accommodations.

Become familiar with ADA and ask about accommodations such as allowing for more time to get to class, note-takers in the class, and alternative testing locations.

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More tips for a successful transition…

- Resident directors also need to understand that they may have a student with ASD who does not socialize and needs special living accommodations.

- Discuss and Practice how to Self –Advocate

- Discuss and Practice Disclosure Strategies

What to look for at a potential college

Study support

Peer mentoring opportunities

Individual and group counseling

One-on-one academic support and coaching

Planned social events
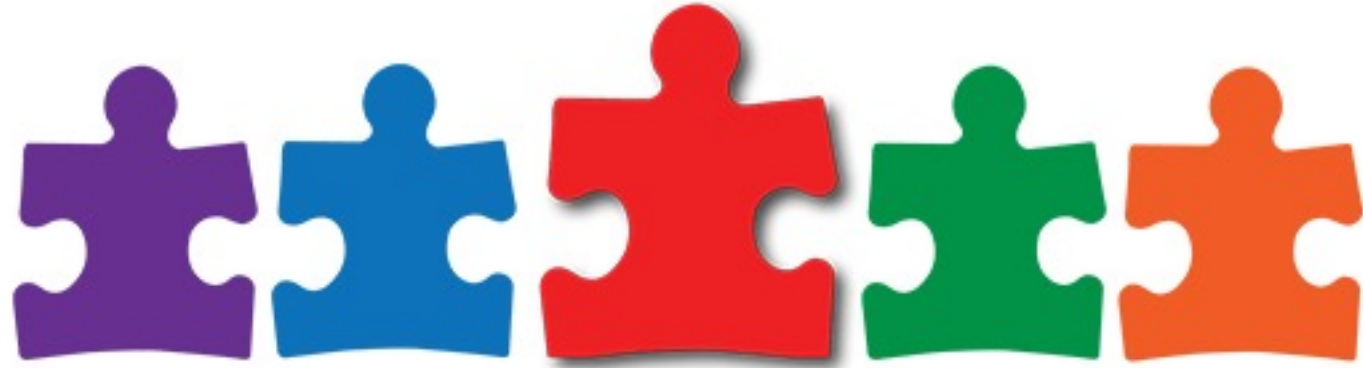
Career guidance

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Tips for Faculty

- Break large assignments into smaller units to be turned in separately
- Provide direct feedback and set clear boundaries
- Provide ample response time for questions

- Provide a predicable routine

- Consider allowing use of technology or laptop for in-class work and note taking
- Allow for extra transition time
- Help with organizational supports (color coded binders and folders)
- Reminders of assignments

- Avoid use of idioms, metaphors, sarcasm, and jokes
- Consider assigning group roles
- Supplement oral instructions with visual (written instructions paired with graphics)

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Thank you!

For more information visit https://autismcollegeandcareer.com/