



Autism Society of  
North Dakota



Red River Valley  
ASPERGER NETWORK

March 12, 2007

Dr. Wayne G. Sanstead  
Superintendent of Public Instruction  
Department of Public Instruction  
600 E. Boulevard Avenue, Dept. 201  
Bismarck, North Dakota 58505-0440

Dear Dr. Sanstead:

We write to you today on behalf of students with Autism Spectrum Disorders in the state of North Dakota.

The Autism Society of North Dakota and the Red River Valley Asperger Network share a common goal of advocating for persons affected by autism spectrum disorders. As part of that goal, our organizations put together a team to review the existing document "Guidelines: Identifying, Serving, and Educating Children and Youth with Autism".

While we are sure that much thought and effort went into the 2002 guidelines, a great deal has changed since then. Autism spectrum disorders have become a national research topic, and there now exists a greater understanding of this complex array of conditions. For our project, we gathered substantial information, references, and guidelines that we would be happy to share with you upon request. Attached is a brief description of what we found.

We would appreciate knowing how this document is received, and whether or not there is reason for hope within our two groups that our suggestions convince you to update the existing guidelines. We encourage you to view our group as a partner in this important endeavor. We look forward to hearing from you.

If we can be of further assistance, please let either of us know.

Sincerely,

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