



## Department of Public Instruction

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Dr. Wayne G. Sanstead  
State Superintendent

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Jocelyn Sloan  
Autism Society of North Dakota  
628 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue  
Alice, ND 58031

Kay Farris  
Red River Valley Asperger Network  
3222 28<sup>th</sup> St. South  
Fargo, ND 58104

Dear Ms. Sloan and Ms. Farris,

Thank you for your interest in improving services for children and youth with "autism". We appreciate your review of *Guidelines: Identifying, Serving, and Educating Children and Youth with Autism.* This document was developed with a statewide task force inclusive of multiple perspectives. Our agencies also worked collaboratively with a U.S. Department of Education, Office of Special Education Programs funded technical assistance project, the Mountain-Plains Regional Resource Center. This center was a significant partner in developing our state's guidance document. It is obvious by the number of references and resources indicated in your letter that you have put considerable thought and effort into your recommendations.

We recognize that the specific area of autism is constantly changing. As you correctly noted in your letter, new educational and medical studies in this area are constantly being completed with findings that have an impact on the way services for children and youth with autism are delivered.

Because of the reauthorization of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act our offices are currently reviewing many guidance documents to ensure that they are in alignment with changes in federal statute and regulations. We are also reviewing guidelines for necessary revisions due to the evolution of the way children and youth are identified and services provided. Our departments will take your recommendations into consideration when we review *Guidelines: Identifying, Serving, and Educating Children and Youth with Autism.* We will also notify you of any changes that are made to this document.

Thank you for your commitment to improving services for children and youth who have this disability that our state and nation is trying to understand more fully.

Sincerely,

Dr. Wayne G. Sanstead  
State Superintendent  
ND Department of Public Instruction

Carol K. Olson  
Executive Director  
ND Department of Human Services