

2010 State Autism Profiles NORTH DAKOTA

DEMOGRAPHICS

In 2000, 135 or 0.99% of children ages 3-21 who received special education services in North Dakota have autism. In 2008-2009, 514 or 3.87% of children with disabilities ages 3-21 who received special education services have autism.

Table 1-1: IDEA Part B - Children with Autism in North Dakota for 1999-2000 and 2008-2009
(Child Count by Age Group)

	1999-2000	2008-2009
Age 3-5	17	41
Age 6-11	71	234
Age 12-17	38	207
Age 18-21	9	32
Age 6-21	118	473
Age 3-21	135	514

Source: Reported by the State of North Dakota in accordance with Section 618 of IDEA to U.S. Department of Education, Office of Special Education Programs

Table 1-2: IDEA Part B - Children with Disabilities in North Dakota for 1999-2000 and 2008-2009
(Child Count by Age Group)

	1999-2000	2008-2009
Age 3-5	1,247	1,576
Age 6-11	5,880	5,512
Age 12-17	5,814	5,507
Age 18-21	711	683
Age 6-21	12,405	11,702
Age 3-21	13,652	13,278

Source: Reported by the State of North Dakota in accordance with Section 618 of IDEA to U.S. Department of Education, Office of Special Education Programs

STATE TASK FORCE

On April 8, 2009, Governor John Hoeven signed S.B. 2174, creating a task force on autism spectrum disorders. Members of the task force will be appointed by the governor, and include legislators, representatives from state agencies, providers, parents, and other professionals with an interest in autism. The task force will review early intervention and family support services, programs that transition individuals from schools to adult day programs or employment. Additionally, the task force will review the costs of providing services and determine whether federal resources could be used. The task force will develop a state plan to be presented to the governor and legislature before July 1, 2010.
http://governor.nd.gov/boards/boards-query.asp?Board_ID=159

STATE INSURANCE COVERAGE

The State of North Dakota does not have a specific health insurance mandate for autism at this time. Limited coverage may be available through the state's mental health coverage. Under this law, group health insurers must provide coverage for the diagnosis and treatment of mental illnesses as with other conditions. (ND Cent Code §26.1-36-09)

MEDICAID

North Dakota Home Community Based Services Waiver (HCBS): Traditional Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities

Implemented on April 1, 2009, this waiver provides services for individuals with developmental disabilities in order for them to be able to stay at home and within their communities. Services provided include: adult day health, day habilitation, extended services, homemaker, residential habilitation, extended home health care, adult family foster care, behavioral consultation, environmental supports and

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modifications, equipment and supplies, in home supports, infant development, parenting support, and transportation costs for the financially responsible caregiver. There is no age restriction for applicants and it expires on March 31, 2014.

<http://www.nd.gov/dhs/services/disabilities/docs/nd-traditional-mrdd-hcbs-waiver-apr01-2009.htm>

EDUCATION

Early Intervention Program

North Dakota, due to medical advances that have enabled earlier identification of autism, offers early intervention programs to children age birth to 3. For a child to qualify for development disability case management, they must be performing below age norms in one or more areas. The child must also have been diagnosed as having a high probability of becoming developmentally delayed.

<http://www.dpi.state.nd.us/speced/guide/autism.pdf>

Special Education Services

North Dakota offers special education services to children ages 3 to 21. To qualify, a student must undergo an evaluation before a multidisciplinary team. The potential student must display a minimum six symptoms from a variety of three different categories. The student must show at least two symptoms of extreme difficulty in social relationships and at least one symptom of impairment of communication. The student must also display at least one symptom of displaying a preoccupation with objects, sensations, rituals, and routines. The team may use a diagnosis of autism from a medical professional, but it is not required. The team must also utilize two different assessment tools to determine eligibility.

<http://www.dpi.state.nd.us/speced/guide/autism.pdf>

Legislation

S.B. 2108 was introduced January 3, 2008 and signed into law April 10, 2008 redefining a student with a disability including a specifically reference to students with autism. A student with a disability is now defined as a person between the ages of 3 and 21 who requires special education and related services. The disabilities include autism, traumatic brain injury, and hearing or visual impairments, among others.

<http://www.legis.nd.gov/assembly/60-2007/bill-text/HQRP0400.pdf>

STATE LEGISLATIVE CALENDAR

The North Dakota State Legislature meets biennially from the first week of January through the last week in April. The 2009 Legislative Session convened on January 6, 2009 and adjourned April 30, 2009. The 2011 Legislative Session will convene on January 4, 2011.

<http://www.legis.nd.gov/>

Sponsors of Autism Legislation:

Sen. Gary Lee (R-Casselton) District 22

Rep. Dennis Johnson (R-Devils Lake) District 15

Sen. Joan Heckaman (D-New Rockford) District 23