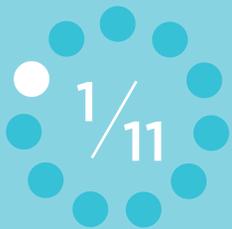




ASD NEST SUPPORT PROJECT

NEST IN A NUTSHELL



One out of 11 students in the US served under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act is classified as having autism.

—National Center for Education Statistics

The ASD Nest Support Project at NYU Steinhardt develops the capacity of educational systems, districts, and schools to support students with autism spectrum disorder (ASD). By focusing on strengths, developing independence and advocacy, and committing to inclusion, we help our partners build truly inclusive learning environments.

Building a More Inclusive World

OUR MODEL

ASD Nest is a school inclusion model for students with ASD, in which students with ASD are educated in their neighborhood school alongside their general education peers. Educators teach the general education curriculum using specialized supports drawn from evidence-based and promising practices, and students develop competence in their social and behavioral functioning, in order to ultimately realize their full, unique potential as independent and happy adults.

Classroom Supports

Social, behavioral, academic, and sensory strategies

Collaborative Structures

Cohesive, interdisciplinary teams

System-Wide Structures

Committed administration and trained professionals

Philosophical Foundation

Shared beliefs about autism and inclusion



steinhardt.nyu.edu/asdnest

“The Nest is one of the most comprehensive inclusion programs I have seen focusing on promoting strengths of individuals on the autism spectrum—as well as everyone else!”

— Dr. Stephen Shore, Assistant Professor of Special Education at Adelphi University



Building Inclusive School Communities

The ASD Nest Support Project offers professional development packages tailored to a school's needs to help administrators, educators, related service providers, paraprofessionals, and the entire school community better understand, nurture, and educate their students with ASD. We offer a menu of different services including needs assessments, online training, on-site professional development, and both on-site and distance consultation. We also partner with schools and districts interested in opening their own ASD Nest Program.

Our goal is to help schools build inclusive learning communities where difference is accepted and neurodiverse learners can thrive.

Nest in NYC

We provide pre-service training, on-site consultation, and ongoing professional development to 43 ASD Nest schools, grades K-12, across New York City:

43
ASD Nest Schools,
across all 5 boroughs
of New York City

270
co-taught inclusive
classrooms in Nest
public schools



1200
students with ASD in
kindergarten through
12th grade

4000
general education peers
educated alongside
their Nest classmates

Work With Nest

The ASD Nest Support Project is expanding its reach, designing support packages that include both high-quality consultation and tailored professional development to all schools supporting students with ASD.

For more information, contact Lauren Hough Williams at lauren.hough@nyu.edu, and visit us at steinhardt.nyu.edu/asdnest

The ASD Nest Support Project is part of NYU Steinhardt's Metropolitan Center for Research on Equity and the Transformation of Schools



HOW TO WORK WITH US

Tailored support packages focus on building inclusive learning environments for students with ASD, including:

- building inclusive classrooms and school communities
- recognizing the academic challenges and executive functioning profiles of students with ASD
- strengthening positive behavior supports and addressing challenging behaviors
- understanding the hidden social world of the classroom

SUPPORT PACKAGES CAN INCLUDE

Inclusion Needs Assessment

Program observations and interviews with staff and other key stakeholders to assess inclusion practices and systems

Consultation Days

On-site support, observing in classrooms and working with educators

Professional Development

Half- and full-day autism and inclusion workshops

Online Training

Courses through NYU on autism and behavior

Inquiry Team Facilitation

On-site student and data-centered teams focusing on students with ASD

Open an ASD Nest Program

Implementation of the full ASD Nest Model and opening Nest classes!

“The Nest program is what showed me the path to understanding myself, the world, and the people around me; without it, I would not be half the person I am today”

— Colin O., former ASD Nest student



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