Center on Secondary Education for Students with Autism Spectrum Disorders: Lessons Learned During Intervention Development

Erik W. Carter¹ & Ann Cox²
¹Department of Special Education, Vanderbilt University, Nashville, Tennessee
²Frank Porter Graham Child Development Institute, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill

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WHAT IS CESA?
CESA is a research and development project funded by IES that focuses on developing, adapting, and studying a comprehensive school- and community-based education program for high school students on the autism spectrum.

WHAT ARE THE CESA COMPONENTS?
The comprehensive model will have five components that work together to best meet the needs of students, school staff, community partners, and families.

The spectrum.

CSESA is a research and development program that supports school students on the autism spectrum.

WHAT ARE THE CESA PARTNERS?
Across five years, researchers from six universities will collaborate with schools, businesses, families, and adolescents on the autism spectrum to build and study a high school program that supports optimal outcomes for students in high school and after graduation. Lead investigators are listed to the right.

WHO ARE THE CESA PARTNERS?

Focus Groups: 28 focus groups were conducted across four states, with 141 participants representing various stakeholder groups. Participants shared their perspectives on the needs of high school students with ASD, as well as the needs of families and school/community staff that provide support to this population. The data shared is being used to refine CESA interventions.

Pilot Studies: Currently we are piloting intervention components at 9 high schools in five states across the country. We are examining the feasibility, acceptability, and social validity of the intervention pieces, as well as student outcomes after receiving intervention components. 135 participants across stakeholder groups are taking part in our pilot studies. The data gathered will also be used to refine CESA interventions, as well as to develop training materials for school sites. Teams are using design experimentation and single-case design.

YEAR 1 CESA ACTIVITIES

Focus Groups N = 141

Participant Groups Currently Enrolled
Schools 9
Teachers and staff 33
Students with ASD 33
Other students 32
Families 28

CSESA TIMELINE

In progress
2012-2013 Year 1 Development of individual model components in schools
2013-2014 Year 2 Pilot of individual model components in combination in schools
2014-2015 Year 3 Implementation at 6 sites across the country
2015-2016 Year 4 Continued implementation at 24 cohort 2 sites, standardize training and coaching across sites
2016-2017 Year 5 Continuation implementation at 30 cohort 2 sites, standardize training and coaching across sites

In progress

FUNDING ACKNOWLEDGMENT

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