



# Center on Secondary Education for Students with ASD: Building Evidence Based Programs Implemented by School and Community-based Teams



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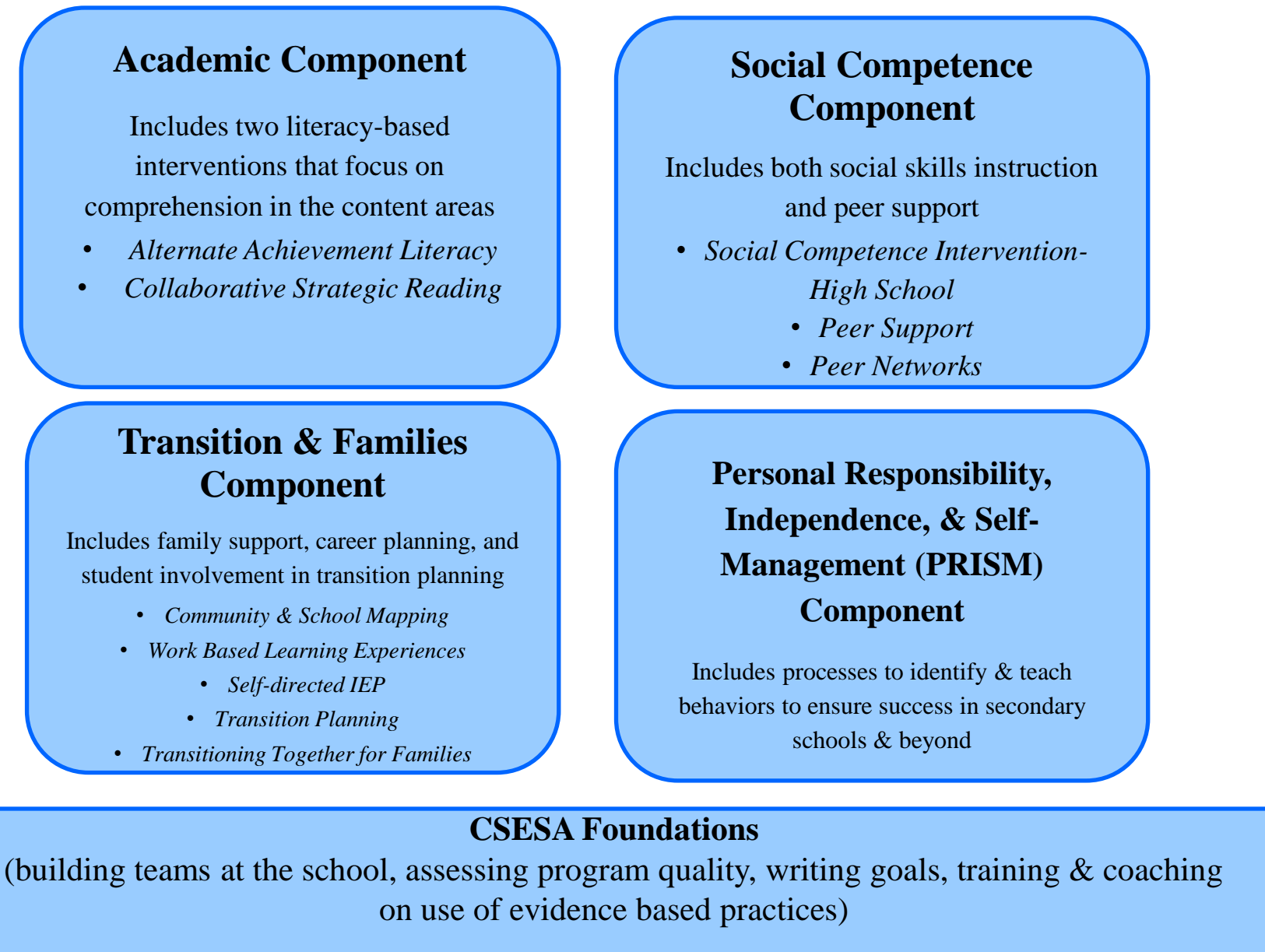
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## What is CSESA?

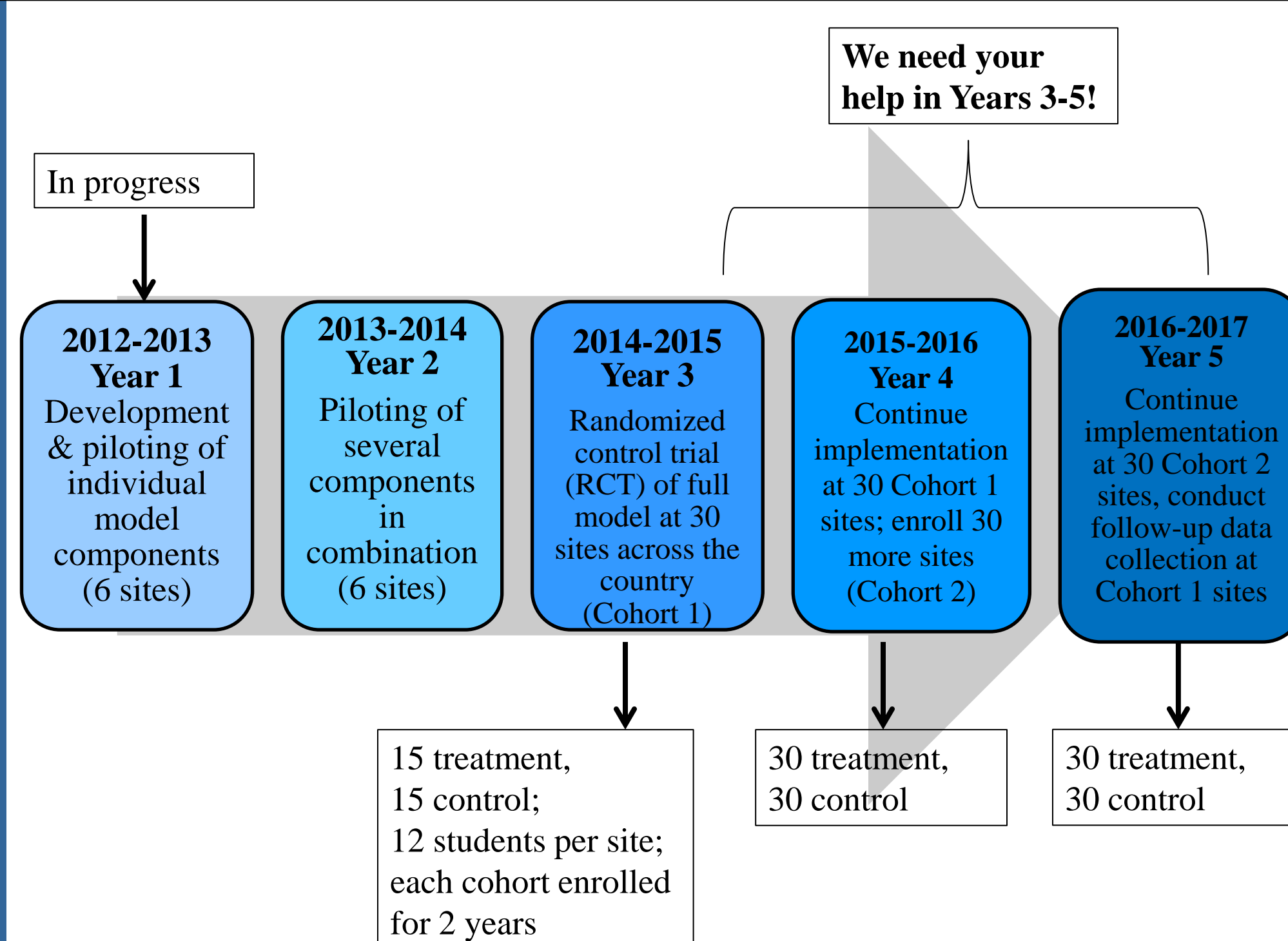
CSESA is a research and development project funded by the Department of Education that focuses on developing, adapting, and studying a comprehensive school- and community-based education program for high school students on the autism spectrum.

## What are the CSESA Components?

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

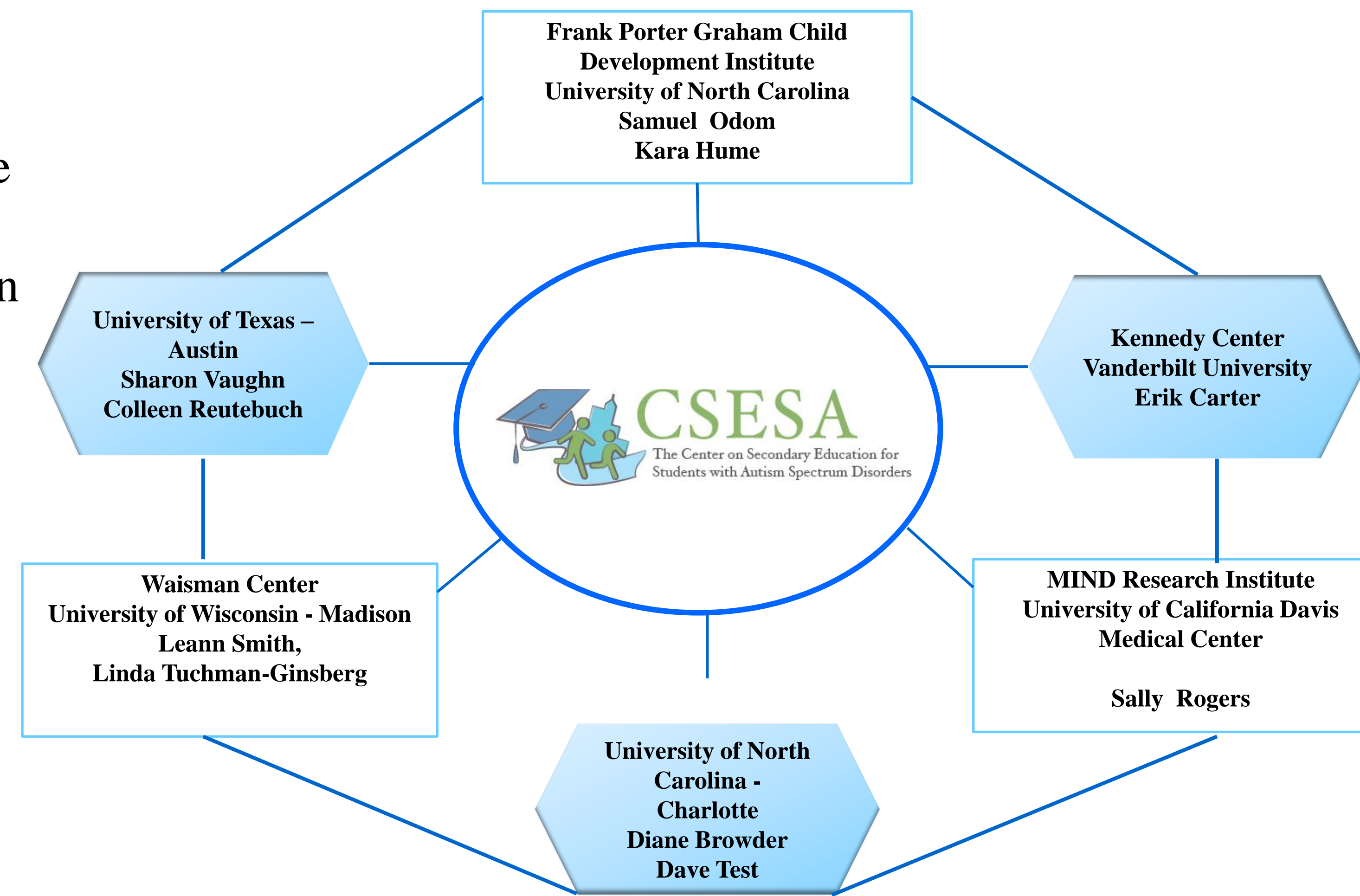


## CSESA Timeline



## Who are the CSESA 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.



## Year 1 CSESA Activities

**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 CSESA 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 CSESA interventions, as well as to develop training materials for school sites. Teams are using design experimentation and single case design.

### Year One Focus Groups N=141

Stakeholder	Sample Size
Administrator	27
Community Member	16
Educator	50
Parent	42
Service Provider	1
Youth	5

### Year 1 Pilot Studies

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

## Year 1 CSESA Findings

Preliminary focus group findings indicate a number of concerns and considerations around programming in secondary settings. Data analysis is ongoing to compile cross-site data.

Concerns	Considerations
<b>Time &amp; funds to support students with ASD</b>	Emphasize improving learning environment
<b>Limited understanding of ASD in high school settings</b>	Focus on plan for professional development
<b>Demands of high school can be overwhelming "There are lots of expectations but no reminders"</b>	Create a balanced model
<b>Inconsistent staff &amp; programming</b>	Keep feasibility in mind Share relevant information readily

Data collection is ongoing in our pilot studies. Teams are collecting frequent data from stakeholder groups.

## CSESA Needs YOU!

Consider the districts you work with:

- Are there high schools that could benefit from comprehensive programming for their students with ASD?
- Are their district/school leaders that are interested in collaborating with a research team?

## Benefits to collaborating with CSESA:

Intervention Group	Control Group
Support in developing site based team	Support in developing site based team
Ongoing assessment of program quality	Ongoing assessment of program quality
Training and weekly coaching on each component	Financial compensation for team members
Financial compensation for team members	Training at the end of the study (2017)

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