



Purpose: To develop & evaluate a comprehensive, school-based intervention program for secondary students with ASD.

Because, after high school "...nearly 80% (of students w/ASD) still live at home, almost half have no jobs or postsecondary training, 40% never have contact with friends, 17% never feel hopeful about the future..." - Paul Shattuck (2010)

## Year 1 **Exploration Stage** 2012-2013

- 1) Gathering and analysis of stakeholder feedback
- 2) Development & piloting of individual model components
- 3) Revision of individual model components based on stakeholder feedback

## Year 2 **Installation Stage** 2013-2014

Piloting of several components in combination

### Year 3 Initial Implementation 2014-2015

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Randomized control trial (RCT) of full model at 30 sites across the country (Cohort 1)

#### Year 4 **Full Implementation** 2015-2016

Continue implementation at 30 Cohort 1 sites; enroll 30 more sites (Cohort 2)

Year 5 **Full Implementation** 2016-2017

Continue implementation at 30 Cohort 2 sites, follow-up data at Cohort 1 sites

# Implementing an Educational Model for Secondary Students with Autism: The Complexities of High School



## A. Stakeholder Interviews and Focus Groups

Stakeholders talked, We listened

WHO: Parents, Educators, Service Providers, and Individuals on the Spectrum

28 Focus Groups ■ 153 Participants ■ 5 Sites Across the US

### MAJOR FINDINGS:

Needs of students with ASD not being met in High School! WHY?

- ☐ School-wide lack of understanding of ASD
- ☐ Interventions are often ineffective and inconsistently implemented



Concerns about feasibility of the implementation of CSESA & prioritization of Professional Development

- ☐ Who will do it?
- ☐ Where are the resources?
- ☐ When is the time?

"Time is going to be a big factor. Planning time to be able to plan and implement these steps." Teacher

## **B. Advisory Board:** Ten Leaders in the Field of Autism

Provided feedback on the model components, process, materials, research design and dissemination plan.

#### **Example Questions:**

- What helped to make the high school experience successful?
- Who helped facilitate those successes?
- What were some of the challenges faced?
- Anything help to reduce those challenges?
- What were your fears/concerns throughout high school?
- How were those addressed?
- What outcomes were most important during and after high school?

FOR YOUR SUBJECTS

WHEN THEY GRADUATE:

1) SOMETHING TO DO

2) SOMEHNERE TO BE

3) someone to Love.

GOOD LUCK!!

C. Autism Society of America **Preconference Workshop** 

37 Participants - individuals with autism,

Suzanne Kucharczyk Susan Hedges

University of North Carolina

Engaged in dialogue on the experience of High

School for students on the spectrum related to:

- Relationships and Social Interactions
- Responsibility & Independence
- Technology

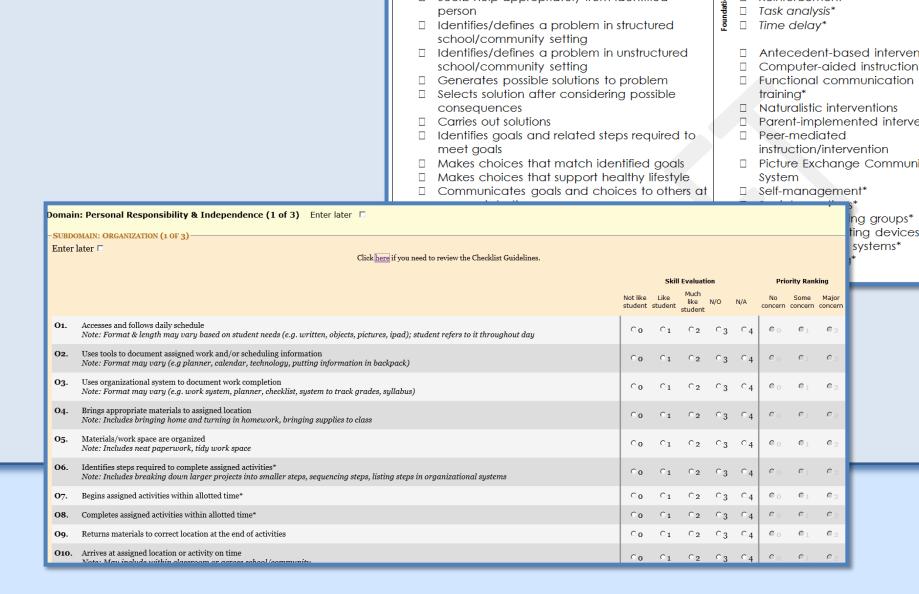
families, professionals

"They fall off the cliff when they leave high school." Parent



## D. Incorporating Feedback

In response to stakeholder feedback materials, formats and technology platforms were redesigned.



Sharing the findings

Remedial & Special Education Journal -

Website/Facebook updates and eNews

Focus Group Findings Paper (in progress)

Component Specific Papers (in progress)

Autism-at-a-Glance Pamphlets

Building teams to ensure success

**CSESA** Implementation Team

Provide each other with on-going feedback through:

- Systematic Coaching Process
- Team Meetings
- Direct Training

School **Implementation Team** 

"It's hard to get that consistency, making sure everybody's following. That's a lot of people to get on the same page. Everybody's willing to try stuff, but we're not all using the same language, and that's confusing for somebody to work with that many people." Administrator

http://csesa.fpg.unc.edu/

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Special Issue



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