

## Autism Support Team

The Hancock County Autism Support Team was formed in 2010 in order to create and train a team of teachers and related personnel to be available to district teachers as a resource. The Team is not part of the ETR/IEP process. The Team does not diagnose or question ETR/IEP and placement decisions. However, information gained from the Autism Team's assessment may be used by the IEP team to adjust or review the IEP.

Process for requesting assistance from the HCESC Autism Team:

1. The school district or teacher will contact the autism team for help with a student that is diagnosed with Autism Spectrum Disorder, either educationally or medically. Contact for the team will go through the HCESC Special Education Supervisors via email. At this time the child's teacher will be asked to acquire consent from parent/guardian(s) for the assessment by using the form available on the HCESC website <http://hancockesc.org/Programs/AutismTeam>
2. Once the request is made and parent consent has been received by the HCESC Special Education Supervisors, one of the supervisors will review the child's IEP or 504 accommodations and modifications to ensure they are in place for the child.
3. The Autism team chair will contact the school to set up a meeting to receive input from the staff.
4. The Underlying Characteristics Checklist (UCC) and the Individual Strengths and Skills Inventory (ISSI) will be completed by each individual that works with or understands the student (teachers, parents, aides, etc.).
5. The Autism Team Chair will assign 2-3 Autism Team members to assist with collecting data and providing input, and schedule observations of the student.
6. Forms are collected and placed on a chart by the Autism Team Chair, so that behaviors can be identified as a priority or as something that does not need to be addressed at this time. These findings will be placed on the *Ziggurat Model* worksheet which addresses five areas of behavior and/or concern. The five areas of behavior/concern collected during the assessment are **Sensory/Biological Needs, Reinforcement, Structure & Visual/Tactile Supports, Task Demands, and Skills to Teach.**
7. The team will work with the school staff and parents to establish an action plan that addresses the behaviors with suggestions for interventions that may help.
8. Implementation of the action plan and interventions by the student's teachers and school personnel will then occur.
9. Review of success and adjustment of interventions if necessary. The Autism Team Chair will check in with the school staff in about 4 weeks to check on progress.
10. Referrals for the Autism team can be made from Sept. 1 to March 1.

While this will be the process, the team may deem it necessary to seek more information to the assessment to get a better understanding of the student being assessed.