

## Guidelines for Documentation of Autism Spectrum Disorders

Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD) includes autism, Asperger syndrome, and pervasive developmental disorder. ASDs are characterized generally by impaired social functioning and are often accompanied by problems with language, behavior, motor clumsiness, sensory issues and/or psychiatric symptoms.

Professionals recommended to provide documentation include: developmental pediatricians, psychologists, and psychiatrists. Additional valuable input may also come from: occupational therapists, physical therapists, speech and language therapists, and/or clinical social workers

Documentation adequate to establish eligibility for services *must* include:

- ❖ Written statement of diagnosis
- ❖ Social and developmental history to include information on: communication skills, social interaction skills, motor skills, responses to sensory experiences, relevant family and environmental information, patterns of emotional adjustment, unusual or atypical behaviors.
- ❖ Information specifying current level of intellectual functioning, to include cognitive and achievement measures and standardized scores
- ❖ Information specifying current level of receptive, expressive and pragmatic communication skills
- ❖ Information specifying current level of motor skills and any relevant sensory issues
- ❖ Information specifying relevant current medications and their side effects and possible impact on student academic performance
- ❖ Summary statement of the current impact of the disorder on the student's functioning in an academic environment.