



NATIONAL ACCELERATOR OF AUTISM CHARTER SCHOOLS

Info Guide

October 2023

Mission

The mission of the National Accelerator of Autism Charter Schools (NAACS) is to support founding teams committed to starting Autism-Focused Charter Schools by offering fellowships, training, resources and a national network of support. Our vision is to accelerate the opening of an Autism Charter School in every major city in America!



About

The National Accelerator of Autism Charter Schools (NAACS) was founded by Diana Diaz-Harrison, founder of Arizona Autism Charter Schools and Glenn Pierce, founding board member of the South Florida Autism Charter School. Their two respective charters are award-winning and nationally recognized for providing high quality, tuition-free school options for hundreds of children with autism. Over the years, potential founding teams in other states have reached out for support and the eminent need to form a training and support organization inspired the formation of NAACS. NAACS leverages more than 25 years of combined experience from the two largest and most successful autism charters to share best practices and a codified school model to support founding teams wishing to build autism charters or autism programs in their states.



The NAACS Fellowship

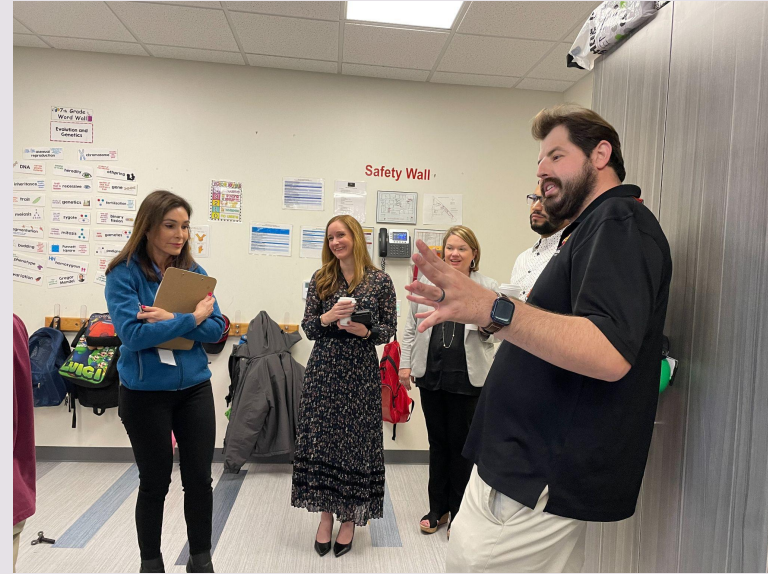
NAACS offers a comprehensive one to two-year fellowship program designed for founding school teams who are committed to opening an autism-focused charter school. Teams will visit NAACS Demonstration Sites in Arizona and Florida four times during the school year to be immersed in a scope of training within an active autism school setting. The goal will be to equip founding teams to lead an evidence based autism focused charter school that is compliant with public charter laws.



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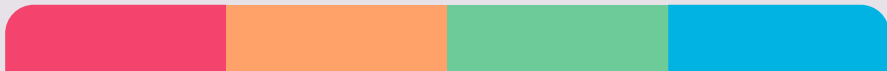
The NAACS Fellowship focuses training on competencies that are essential to running a successful autism-focused charter. These include:

- Charter Application Support to State Authorizers
- Board Development and Governance
- Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA) in School Settings
- Curriculum and Instruction
- Data Collection
- Assessment
- Special Education Compliance
- Staffing Models
- Recruitment
- Safety Planning and Transportation
- Grants, Outreach and Public Relations



Program Development and Support

In addition to provides training, resources, consulting, and technical assistance to founding teams committed to starting an autism charter. NAACS also offers consulting and training to existing schools, private schools, micro-schools and districts to develop, implement, and monitor programs that are evidence based to support learners with autism in various school settings.



Program Development and Support Offerings


Model Classroom

- Ideal class size and student to staff ratios for various levels of the autism spectrum
- Embedded environmental prompts to promote independence
- Clearly defined and structured stations for project based, sensory, group, and independent learning activities
- Visual supports to increase communication and independence
- Environment conducive to sensory integration and movement

Embedding Principles of Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA) in Schools

- Positive Reinforcement
- Differential Reinforcement
- Task Analysis
- Discrete Trial Teaching (DTT)
- Direct Instruction (DI)
- Behavior Skills Teaching (BST)

Rigorous Curriculum & Instruction with Best Practice Supports for Autism

- Curriculum alignment to state standards and extended standards
 - Implementing the PEAK (DTT) assessment and program in a school setting
 - Social Emotional Learning
 - Project Based Learning
 - STEAM
 - Career and Technical Education
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