



# Educator's Guide to Conference

## Why should an educator attend the conference?

The Minnesota annual autism conference is a great place for educators to stay up to date on the latest best practices and research for autism. Not only will you walk away with practical strategies that will help you with everything from behaviors to social skills, you also will connect with other educators. This is THE place for an educator to be for the most comprehensive information on autism. This guide will help you find the sessions and resources that are tailored for educators. If you're looking for ways to attend the conference at a more affordable rate, AuSM is looking for volunteers. All volunteers receive a discounted rate to the conference. Email [kulrick@ausm.org](mailto:kulrick@ausm.org) to volunteer. All participants will receive a Certificate of Attendance you can use for CEUs.

## AuSM Shop

To help you keep growing throughout the year, we've stocked our AuSM Shop with hand-selected titles to address all ages and concerns, from behaviors to sensory issues to relationships. If you're looking for help with a particular topic, visit the AuSM Shop and we will help you find the right resource. We'll also have tons of fidgets ready for classroom duty.



## Wednesday, April 26, 12:30-4:30 p.m. Foundational Conference Workshop

### Conference Keynote Presentations

- Thursday, April 27, 8-9:30 a.m.  
Understanding Emotions and Strategies to Develop Self-Regulation, presented by Kari Zweber Palmer (Social Thinking)
- Thursday, April 27, 1:15-2:45 p.m.  
A New Vision for Supporting Autistic and Neurodivergent Students, presented by Dr. Mona Delahooke
- Friday, April 28, 8-9:30 a.m.  
The Past, Present, and Future of Autism Politics, presented by Eric Garcia

### Conference Breakout Sessions

#### Thursday, April 27

##### 10-11 a.m.

- Strategies for Choosing the Right Goals and Following Through, presented by James Rechs
- Supporting Self-Advocacy for Teens and Young Adults with Disabilities, presented by Cole Sorensen

##### 11:15 a.m.-12:15 p.m.

- Eliminating Fear of Difference Through Education, presented by Abby Pearson and Brittany Barutt
- The Intersection of Autism, Literacy, and Communication, presented by Kayna Plaisted

##### 3-4 p.m.

- The Importance of Sexual Education for Autistic People (Including AAC Users), presented by Donnie Denome
- Supporting Individuals with Profound Intellectual and Multiple Disabilities (PIMD), presented by Eric Ringgenberg
- Trauma, Special Needs and Interventions, presented by Tamera Pulver

## Conference Breakout Sessions (cont.)

Friday, April 29

10-11 a.m.

- Transitioning Together: Culturally Responsive Approaches to Transition Planning, presented by Fatima Molas, Rufo Jiru, Rebekah Hudock, Maren Christenson Hofer, Chimei Lee, and Erika Schulz
- Using DBT to Help Adolescents Manage Stress and Anxiety, presented by Ann Duevel
- What is Disability Justice and Why Does It Matter?, presented by Jules Edwards, Brittanie Hernandez-Wilson, and Jillian Nelson

11:15 a.m.-12:15 p.m.

- Clearing up the Confusion about Transition from School to Adulthood (pt. 1), presented by Lindsey Horowitz and Alyssa Klein
- Ableism in Education: What Educators Need to Know, presented by Sonya Emerick, Maren Christenson Hofer, and Ryan Haenze

1:15-2:15 p.m.

- Clearing up the Confusion about Transition (pt. 2), presented by Abbie Wells-Herzog and Margie Webb
- MNprov Recess – Stretch Your Legs and Stretch Your Brain, presented by Michael Bruckmueller and Kelly Kautz
- Working as a Team to Support Our Students: Navigating the IEP System and a Student’s Legal Rights in Education, presented by Ryan Haenze and Yumma Moore

2:30-3:30 p.m.

- When the Frontal Lobe Does Not Cooperate, presented by Sara Swan
- How Providers and Educators Can Work With Autistics To Build Accessible Services, presented by Rene Joy
- Supporting Autistic Youth: Insights from the Autism Mentorship Program, presented by Megan Perera, Emily Goldberg, AJ Hokland, and Cameron Hallonquist

### Virtual Sessions

- Creating a Sense of Belonging in a Neurodiverse Classroom presented by Chelsea Budde and Denise Schamens
- Neurodivergence, Sex, and Sensory Processing presented by Sarah Hernandez

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### What's Next

If you're looking for more resources to expand your autism toolbox, AuSM is a great place to be involved year round! Check out our ASD Direct Support Certification course, a 15-hour intensive class that will give you strategies for working with students on the spectrum. We also offer customized training on a wide variety of topics. Contact [education@ausm.org](mailto:education@ausm.org) for more information. To stay in the know, make sure you visit [www.ausm.org](http://www.ausm.org) to sign up for our twice monthly e-newsletter, AuSM Connections. You can find the sign up at the bottom of any page.

Finally, if you're looking for a way to fill those summer hours, AuSM is currently seeking staff for our summer camps and social skills classes.

Visit [www.ausm.org](http://www.ausm.org) for details.