



**Nevada Commission
On Autism Spectrum Disorders**
Addressing issues across the lifespan

Commissioners

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December 14, 2016

Senator Patricia Spearman, Chair
Senate Committee on Health and Human Services
5575 Simmons Street, Suite 1-174
North Las Vegas, NV 89031-9009

Dear Senator Spearman:

The Commission on Autism Spectrum Disorders requests your support in allowing access to outside service providers of ABA intervention strategies in the school setting to allow for a continuity of services for students with Autism Spectrum Disorder.

There is a multitude of empirical evidence that states the importance of early intervention as well as consistent evidence-based intervention services for students with special needs. These intervention services are imperative for the success of our children and young adults in Nevada. Since resources are limited in Nevada, the Commission and its Resource Development Subcommittee would like to emphasize that not only will this plan support the Nevada school districts, but ABA specialists providing services in the school setting are also an excellent modeling and learning opportunity for staff, administration, and paraprofessionals.

The Commission for Autism Spectrum Disorders is requesting a committee be appointed, consisting of individuals from administration from each school district, state department of education, Medicaid, and BCBAs. This new committee allows all members involved in this plan to help develop a contractual agreement for outside agencies to administer services in the school setting and to act as an additional resource to the school.

The contractual agreement may include but is not limited to:

- An outline of professional conduct guidelines mandated by the school districts to the service providers.
- Obligation of service hours.
- A collaboration model for school districts and outside service providers.
- How service providers will gain access to students on the school campus.

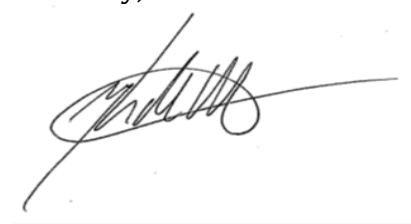
The plan is to provide services in the school setting through outside BCBA, BCABA, and RBT interventionist from ATAP, Medicaid, and private providers in order to support our students with Autism in Nevada. The plan may include but is not limited to;

- BCBAs, BCABAs and RBTs to provided one on one services for students with behaviors that impede with their learning in the school environment.

- The service providers implementing this support would be licensed and trained staff in the area of ABA intervention.
- The service providers would have similar goals to the Individual Education Plan (IEP) in their service provider plan. These goals would support appropriate behavioral interventions in the school setting. This continuum of goals would increase the likelihood of consistent and evidence-based interventions in the school setting.
- The service providers would adhere to a contractual agreement set forth through the appointed committee.
- The service providers would provide services in the school setting with the student's peers to allow for social skills interventions.
- By having these service providers in the school setting this would be a learning opportunity for the providers to model evidence-based practices for staff.
- The service providers, with written parental approval, would collaborate and share documentation with staff.
- The parents of each child would have the right to invite their child's service providers to attend IEPs.

It is time for our excellent school-based services and private therapy providers to come together for the benefit of all children with Autism Spectrum Disorders in Nevada. We believe this plan will pave the way for that to happen. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mario J Gaspar de Alba', is enclosed in a thin black rectangular border.

Mario J Gaspar de Alba, M.D., Chair
Associate Professor of Pediatrics/Developmental-Behavioral Pediatrics
UNLV School of Medicine

CC: Governor Sandoval
Will Jensen, Director of Special Education
Mike Sprinkle, Chair, Assembly Committee on Health and Human Services