



## ONLINE: Introduction to Autism

*“The course content was very insightful and interesting. It definitely provided me with more information to better understand my students, their needs, and strategies.”*

- Tiffany O.

Most people today know someone with autism. People on the autism spectrum are in our classes, our neighborhoods and our families. Whether you know a little or a lot about autism, this course will give you useful information about the autism spectrum.

Although everyone on the autism spectrum is an individual, this course outlines a constellation of developmental differences common in autism that lead to the key concerns of social and communication issues.

A person with autism experiences the world in a unique way while thinking, remembering events, reacting and communicating differently. Understanding some of the different issues people with autism must face can help us to be more understanding and improve our interactions with students.

By understanding the underlying components of developmental differences in those on the spectrum, teachers, parents and others can revise their own preconceived expectations and help support the learning and behavior for those with autism. This course enables you to learn to understand the world from the perspective of someone with autism.

### Standards:

This course aligns to all of the INTASC Standards including Learner Development, Learning Differences, Learning Environments, Content Knowledge, Assessment, Planning for Instruction and Instructional Strategies.

The course also aligns to the McRel Teacher Evaluation Standards including Teacher Leadership, Diverse Learners, Teachers Know Content and Teachers Facilitate Learning.

### Each self-study PD course from Professional Learning Board includes:

- **Convenient access** anytime, anywhere, any device
- Interactive **online** textbook
- Implement **practical suggestions** immediately
- Demonstrate comprehension with **quizzes** and checks for understanding
- Print **certificates** of completion
- Easily assign courses to align with each teacher’s **personalized PD needs**
- **Integrate** with school and district-wide initiatives
- **Low cost solution for all courses, all teachers, all school year**
- **Reports** for school administrators





## **ONLINE:** Introduction to Autism

### **Course Outline**

#### **LESSON 1**

##### **Overview**

- The definition and symptoms of autism.
- The autism spectrum and primary conditions within this spectrum.
- Other similar conditions, including Rett's syndrome and Fragile X syndrome.
- Primary management for autism.
- Functioning of the brain in autism and the cause for deficits.

#### **LESSON 2**

##### **Social Interactions**

- Theory of mind and how best a teacher can interact with a student at each level.
- Language and communication in autism.
- Ways in which students with autism understand language and express themselves, and learn strategies that can be used to strengthen comprehension and expression in the classroom.
- Social development and how teachers can help promote social development.

#### **LESSON 3**

##### **Expressions of Autism**

- Sensory issues seen in autism and how teachers can work with students who may be struggling with these issues.
- Other symptoms that affect a child's ability to learn including splintered development, perseveration, deficits in imitation and repetitive behavior.
- Motivation and how students with autism may be motivated.

#### **LESSON 4**

##### **Autism in School**

- Classroom organization and management strategies that will help accommodate a child with autism in school.
- Strategies that may be used to adapt the classroom environment, classroom schedules and teaching materials in order to promote learning.
- Behavior issues that may be seen in a student with autism and learning to respond to these issues.
- Working along with the parents and the team in the treatment and education of a student with autism.