

2026-2027 AUTISM SPECTRUM DISORDER LITERACY INSTITUTE

WHAT WILL THIS TRAINING COVER?

This statewide institute will be conducted by nationally recognized experts on literacy and autism spectrum disorder (ASD), Dr. Christi Carnahan and Dr. Pam Williamson. The institute content will focus on a balanced approach to literacy including instruction in phonemic awareness, fluency, vocabulary, reading comprehension, and writing. Each aspect of literacy will be linked to the unique cognitive, social, and communication issues inherent in ASD. Assessment strategies will include an overall estimation of the students' literacy abilities from interactive to independent, which will help teachers determine what additional literacy assessments may be needed to inform instruction.

WHO SHOULD ATTEND THIS TRAINING?

Target Audience: The institute is ideally designed for certified school members who work directly with students with autism spectrum disorder. Teams can include general and special education teachers, speech, and language pathologists, reading interventionists or other members who design/deliver literacy instruction. Due to the need to enroll professionals responsible for delivering/designing literacy instruction, this course is not open to paraeducators. All accepted participants will be asked to share implementation information with parents, paraeducators, and administrators.

Registration Deadline: Registration will close on November 16, 2026 at 5:00pm MT or when capacity is reached.

Questions?: Email Danner_R@cde.state.co.us

COLORADO
Department of Education

WHERE & WHEN?

This training will be conducted in a hybrid format. Coursework will be organized into three Moodle modules, each module followed by a virtual Zoom session with the presenters. Each two-hour virtual session will be conducted from 8:30AM-10:30AM MT. Participants must complete all 3 Modules to receive a certificate for 24 CDE hours. Partial credit will not be given.

SCHEDULE

- ☑ **December 4, 2026**
  Kickoff Virtual Session
  8:30AM - 10:30AM
  Module 1 Opens
- ☑ **January 7, 2027**
  Module 1 Virtual Session
  8:30AM - 10:30AM
  Module 2 Opens
- ☑ **February 11, 2027**
  Module 2 Virtual Session
  8:30AM - 10:30AM
  Module 3 Opens
- ☑ **March 4, 2027**
  Module 3 Virtual Session
  8:30AM - 10:30AM
- ☑ **March 29, 2027**
  Course Closes

Literacy Institute Registration Form