

6 FAST FACTS

Project SEARCH + ASD Supports

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Individuals with autism spectrum disorder (ASD) have higher rates of unemployment than individuals with other disabilities.

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Project SEARCH is a transition-to-work program that provides vocational instruction and preparation for individuals with a range of disabilities in community-based work environments.

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Core components of Project SEARCH include a 9-month internship at a community business, job rotation, job coaching, and continuous feedback.

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Project SEARCH + ASD Supports merges the effective Project SEARCH program model with specific supports and strategies responsive to participants with ASD.

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Determined on an individual basis, Project SEARCH + ASD Supports might include a combination of social communication training, behavioral consultation, consistent structure, visual supports, self-monitoring checklists, role playing, and intensive instruction.

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Research conducted on Project SEARCH + ASD Supports has shown that the model results in significantly higher rates of post-school employment for individuals with ASD in comparison to other programs.

This fact sheet was developed by the Illinois Center for Transition and Work at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign through a contract with the Illinois State Board of Education. Information presented may not reflect the position or policy of the Illinois State Board of Education.

