



Autism Tennessee is the Middle Tennessee organization designed to support individuals and families affected by autism spectrum disorder (ASD). Their goal is to provide resources that will help to enrich the lives and experiences of individuals on the autism spectrum, their families, and their surrounding community through support, advocacy, and education.

What services or resources does this agency provide?

Autism TN seeks to provide education, create community, and teach advocacy to individuals with ASD and their families through workshops, conferences, and other community events. The educational aspect of Autism TN addresses different issues that affect members of the ASD community. Some past educational outreach initiatives included having conferences on the topics of: navigating the education system for families in TN, evidence-based practices and professional terminology, social skills instruction, and navigating the insurance system. Community events hosted by Autism TN focus on providing opportunities for support and socialization, both for families and individuals with ASD in the middle TN area. Advocacy efforts encourage joining forces with various advocacy organizations across Tennessee to represent the needs of individuals with ASD. These organizations hope to make changes that will have a positive impact for people



affected by Autism in TN.

What areas of Tennessee do they serve?

Autism TN serves over 35 counties in the middle Tennessee area.

Is there a cost and, if so, who pays?

There are yearly costs associated with becoming a member of Autism TN. Multiple levels of membership exist depending on your needs. Many resources and events are available free of charge.

For which students might this agency be appropriate?

Autism TN focuses on education, community, and advocacy for individuals with ASD. All of these are key aspects of successful transition, making their resources relevant to transition-age youth and their families. Autism TN has transition social skills groups, and social clubs that may interest students.



Who is eligible to receive their services/ supports and when?

While there are no eligibility requirements to join Autism TN, the supports of this organization are designed for individuals with Autism Spectrum Disorder.

What is the referral process?

What documents are needed?

There is no formal “referral” process. Individuals may contact Autism TN to access services.

What is the family’s responsibility?

Autism TN provides many different resources for individuals with ASD and their families throughout adulthood. An educator can ensure that the family knows about Autism TN by giving them information on the types of supports they offer. It is up to the family to decide if and when they become connected with the organization.

What is the student’s responsibility?

Students can take the initiative to connect with Autism TN. Further, students should follow through with any services or supports they might be using from Autism TN.

What is the responsibility of an educator?

Some families might not be aware of Autism TN and how helpful it can be both during and after formal schooling. It is important to ensure that students and families alike are given information about the resources and supports Autism TN might provide. Educators may want to draw upon the online resources, trainings, and expertise available through Autism TN.

Where can I learn more?

Visit their website at: <http://autismtn.org/>

How (and when) do you involve them in the transition planning process?

- Invite a representative from Autism TN to the planning meeting to speak to parents about their rights and how to navigate the system as they begin transition.
- Educators can make a packet of resources related to transition from Autism TN to share with the family.
- Inform parents about workshops and seminars hosted by Autism TN are related to transition, postsecondary education, employment, etc.
- Inform parents about social skills, workplace readiness, and social clubs hosted by Autism TN.

What questions should I ask of Autism TN?

- Do you offer any childcare for conferences and workshops?
- Can I join Autism TN if I am not in the middle TN area?
- What membership level will assist my person with autism best?
- How can I register for available opportunities?

**Additional contact information:**

- Give them a call at: (615) 385-2077
- Chat with them on their website www.autismtn.org
- Send them an email at: support@autismtn.org
- Visit their Facebook page at: <https://www.facebook.com/AutismTennessee/>